Hafa Adai!

Manglona says Rota brownouts for weeks, troubling. PAGE 2

Marianas touted at Adventure Travel World Summit. PAGE 16

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 194

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Over the weekend, dozens of foreign workers were seen at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport as part of what's considered the first batch of CW-1 workers to depart in compliance with the "touchback" provision.

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

1

DUE TO 'TOUCHBACK'

CHCC to lose over 20 nurses

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the inevitable "touchback" provision under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program that many foreign workers must comply with, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will see the loss of over 20 nurses.

Effective Sept. 30, the CW program's "touchback" provision officially will take effect which means many

See CHCC on Page 4

10 lbs of liquid meth intercepted at US Post Office

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Division of Customs and Biosecurity, with the help of local and federal partners, intercepted 10 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" that two Chinese nationals

See METH on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The eight lava lamps filled with liquid methamphetamine were put out on display during a press conference hosted by the Division of Customs and Biosecurity at their office in Lower Base yesterday.

LEIGH GASES

Zowie Cruz was crowned Miss Northern Marianas Earth 2023 at an event held by Exquisite Productions Marianas Inc. last Friday, Sept. 22, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Zowie Cruz is Miss N. Marianas Earth 2023

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Zowie Cruz was crowned Miss Northern Marianas Earth 2023 at an event held by Exquisite Productions

See CRUZ on Page 4

DeLeon Guerrero says legitimate investor willing to finish IPR, but…

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero, fourth from left, shares his views with other commissioners during the CCC board's monthly meeting at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai yesterday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero disclosed yesterday that there is

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INSIDE

LOCAL

Christina Faisao Deleon Guerrero Tenorio recently graduated from George Fox University with a master's degree in social work.

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BUSINESS

Shinsen Sushi Restaurant has relocated to Middle Road in Garapan and added "New" to its name.

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WORLD

How do you cook a meal when a staple ingredient is unaffordable?

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Manglona says Rota brownouts for weeks, troubling

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that it's troubling that residents of Rota have been experiencing brownouts for a couple of weeks now.

Manglona requested Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Betty G. Terlaje for immediate action on the current status of generators on Rota.

Manglona, in his letter to Terlaje, said should one generator completely shut down, government and private operations will ground to a halt and the people will be left in the dark.

He said it was brought to his attention that of the six generators, only one of the 2.5-megawatt Mitsui generators is currently operating at a capacity of 1.5 megawatts as it is nearly 40 years old.

"Unfortunately, this concern is not new. It has been a longstanding concern that has yet to be fully addressed by your office," the senator told the acting executive director.

Manglona said without a backup generator to provide this critical service, the people are gravely concerned about the length of a complete power outage as well as a possible disruption to water services if pumps are unable to operate and distribute water to residents.

Manglona

The senator also inquired from Terlaje if any communication has been made with the Department of Public Lands regarding the use of the two 1-megawatt generators situated at Rota Resort.

He said with the thought of the sole operating generator on Rota shutting down, it is his hope that CUC looks into this as additional alternative backup for the livelihood of Rota residents.

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USDOE consultant pleased with PSS leadership during visit

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Department of Education senior risk consultant Christine Jackson was pleased with her visit with CNMI Public School System leadership and schools last Sept. 18-20.

During her visit, Jackson met with PSS, Northern Marianas College, NMTech, and NMI administration officials during school inspections/visits and exit conferences.

She met with Board of Education officials led by interim Commissioner of Education Donna M. Flores, Federal Program officer Jacqueline Che, Finance and Budget director Arlene Lizama, Procurement officer Michael Babauta, and internal auditor Jolene Muna. She also visited Oleai Elementary School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Marianas High School, and Hopwood Middle School.

With the recent change of command to Flores, Jackson said the CNMI has "good education leadership" and that Flores "is going to be a good leader."

Jackson said she is confident in Flores' leadership because "I have worked with her folks in [Washington, D.C.] Special Education Program, and they told me about her."

Jackson added, "Every time our Special Ed folks compliment someone it definitely speaks well because they are very particular about folks following Special Education rules and regulations. And it was great to see that someone from that office is taking on the leadership role even if in the interim state because she has genuine connection to the students, especially to students with special needs."

The fact that she is there now, Jackson said that for Flores, "It's definitely going to be a great stint of leadership because she understands what needed to happen both on the board and staff that worked with her at the central office and for the school level. She is one who wants to make sure she is accountable for the federal funds."

Jackson said prior to her arrival, she came in with concerns, but that it was immediately dispelled. She said one thing that made her visit different was that it counteracted any false narratives about what is going on in the CNMI PSS in terms of the leadership.

Along with being confident in Flores' leadership, she is also confident in the staff who are working with the federal programs, finance area, and procurement.

"Even though the leadership has changed recently, and there are new faces in the organization, it definitely was a way to confirm that things are still stable if not even better because of the caliber of staff who are working with the federal programs, finance area, procurement (and) everything that I have seen and the people I have talked to have been able to be response. And everyone has an attitude of transparency, accountability, and integrity in everything that they are doing. And of course, the same singular goal and that they are here for the students," said Jackson.

Not only was Jackson pleased with the leadership, but that she was pleased she visited the schools and talked to staff. "Things are definitely on par. There is no reason to think that things have gone backward. It definitely has dispelled any rumors about high risk being designated for the school system. I think they are definitely on track to continue to use the federal investment effectively. I am really pleased."

Jackson has been visiting the CNMI, primarily conducting regular reviews of the territory's school district for 20 years now. Her responsibilities also encompasses Guam and Puerto Rico.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed today

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. office will be closed today, Sept. 29, for Professional Development.

Regular office hours will resume on Wednesday, October 04, 2023. ***(PR)***

SHEFA application deadline on Sept. 30

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance announced that the deadline to apply and submit supporting documents is on Sept. 30, 2023.

New applicants must create an account before proceeding with the application online at www.saipanshefa.com

They should also make sure to have all supporting documents ready to be uploaded.

For more information, call 670-233-5995 or email us at saipanshefa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

JKPL calls on all trick-or-treaters

It's that time of the year and the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Northern Marianas Library Association, and all community partners invite everyone to join them for the 10th Annual Community Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat event.

Held every year, this popular free public event helps to promote and strengthen community partnership and engagement, fosters family bonding, and provides families with an alternative activity to trick-or-treating door-to-door. This spooktacular event is scheduled for Oct. 31, 2023 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot in Susupe.

Since 2012, thousands of children and adults have enjoyed hours of fun dressing up in spooktacular costumes and trick-or-treating at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot. This year, the JKPL will have monetary prizes for the Best Family Halloween Costume Contest. Registration is required to participate in the costume contest. ***(PR)***

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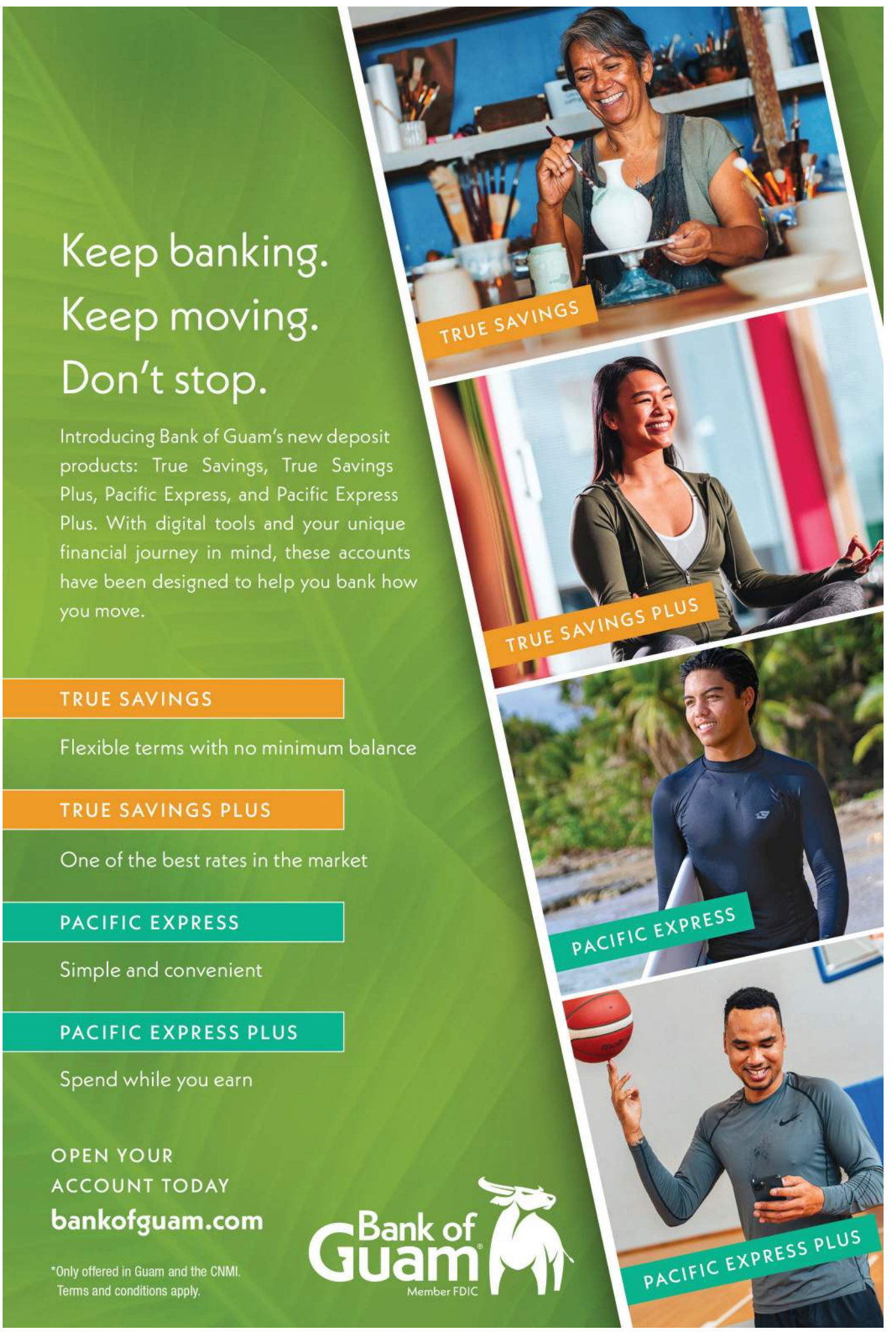
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Palacios enacts into law bill that appropriates $1.9M poker fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has enacted into law a local bill that seeks to appropriate $1.9 million from revenue collected from poker fees, to the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Corrections, and other agencies.

Palacios informed Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) that he signed House Local Bill No. 23-24, Draft 1, into Saipan Local Law No. 23-07.

Introduced by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) and supported by several other House members, the bill was unanimously passed by the SNILD last Aug. 31.

Under the bill, out of $1,932,000 collected from poker fees, $1,547,000 will be appropriated to Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, provided however that $250,000 of that $1.5 million shall be reserved for SHEFA personnel and operations.

Of the remaining $385,000, $100,000 will be appropriated to the Saipan Mayor's Office for personnel and/or operations; $50,000 to the Northern Islands Mayor's Office for personnel and/or operations; $50,000 to the Saipan Humane Society Inc.; $50,000 to the Attorney General's Office to pay for improvements at the Criminal Division Office.

Under the bill, $75,000 will be appropriated to the Saipan Zoning Office, and $60,000 to the Department of Corrections for the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Juvenile Detention Section.

METH

From page 1

allegedly tried to smuggle into the CNMI through the United States Post Office.

Yesterday, Customs and Biosecurity director Jose Mafnas held a press conference at their office in Lower Base to share a recent triumph in the CNMI's battle against "ice"—the interception of 10 lbs of meth that was smuggled into the island through the U.S. Post Office in the form of eight glitter lava lamps.

According to Mafnas, on Sept. 23, during a Customs routine inspection at the post office, a Customs officer became suspicious of one of the boxes up for inspection. Then, after further examination of the box, they noticed a questionable liquid inside the lava lamps and got concerned. The substance was later tested positive for methamphetamine.

"This is the first time, in my years, to witness the interception of a methamphetamine in liquid form," said Mafnas.

The Customs director stated that of the eight lava lamps intercepted, four arrived on island on Sept. 23, and the other four came in yesterday morning. Mafnas noted that both packages of lava lamps were sent to the same postal address and was picked up by two Chinese nationals who have since been arrested.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Division of Customs and Biosecurity held a press conference at their office in Lower Base yesterday to share a recent triumph in the CNMI's battle against "ice"–the interception of 10 lbs of meth that was smuggled into the island through the U.S, Post Office in the form of eight glitter lava lamps.

"Two Chinese nationals were arrested and they are currently being held at the Department of Corrections," he said.

Mafnas also shared that the converted weight of the liquid found in the lava lamps was equivalent about 4,535 grams or about 10 lbs.

Given the street value of one gram of meth in the CNMI is $400, Customs says the estimated value of the drugs found in the lamps is about $1.8 million.

Prior to the lava lamps, Mafnas said Customs intercepted over 2 lbs of methamphetamine at the U.S. Post Office.

According to Mafnas, in September alone, Customs intercepted over $2-million worth of methamphetamine.

Mafnas said the reason Customs is so successful in intercepting drugs at the boarders is because of the great relationship they have with their partners.

"I am very happy that we were able to intercept this because otherwise, it would have gone out into the community and it would have destroyed families, increase the number of drug-related crimes, and so forth. We were able to stop it but it would not have been possible without the help of our local and federal partners," he said.

Attending the press conference was Department of Correction Commissioner Anthony Torres, U.S. Homeland Security special agent John Duenas, and Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clement Bermudes.

Torres and Duenas, for their part, congratulated Customs for their success in intercepting these drugs stating that if they had not been so diligent and the drugs had entered the CNMI, it would have caused a ripple effect.

"It would be in our streets, in our prisons, and our children could be exposed to it," they stated.

IPR

From page 1

a legitimate investor who is willing to come in and put a substantial amount of money to finish the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan so that the casino industry can come back to life.

DeLeon Guerrero said this particular investor, however, is not interested in paying the fees that Saipan exclusive casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, owes to CCC and the CNMI government.

The investor believes that it's IPI's responsibility to pay those fees and if those are resolved, then the investor will clearly finish the building, said the chairman during the CCC board's monthly meeting at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai.

CCC said IPI currently owes the CNMI government $62 million in casino license fees and owes CCC $14.5 million in regulatory fees.

DeLeon Guerrero noted that there is this issue of financial suitability.

"We cannot continue to make accommodations for IPI if they're not financially suitable," DeLeon Guerrero pointed out.

He said if IPI does not have the funds to pay the fees and finish the building, they have no right to have the casino license.

"We should revoke it and then we move on to the next licensee who has the potential and has the financial tools to carry this forward," the chairman said.

Describing IPI as being "too deep in the hole," DeLeon Guerrero said he believes in order for CCC to move forward legally, there has to be an official compliance from IPI with the CNMI Supreme Court order, and come up with timeframe to pay the fees.

"If they don't comply with it, then that will be the next move to revoke. Or at least have an open hearing for revocation hearing, which they can come in and explain why they are not paying," he said.

The chairman said because for the license fee, the Supreme Court had already ruled for CCC to come up with a reasonable time.

DeLeon Guerrero said reasonable time is not right now because IPI has to be given a timeframe.

He said, however, for the $14.5-million regulatory fee and the $5-million fine, there's no timeline.

The chairman also disclosed that during his meeting early this month with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the governor stated that IPI's license should be revoked or at the minimum take down 50% of what it owes and take the remaining 50% in six years.

"So this body has the authority to decide that. But I think those have to be considered too as an opinion, what is IPI capable to pay versus what is executive branch expects," DeLeon Guerrero said.

Commissioner Martin T. Mendiola also shared his concern and perspective.

Mendiola said their main focus should be for the casino industry to take off again so that it benefits the CNMI as a whole.

He noted that millions of dollars circulated in the CNMI economy when IPI's casino was still doing good.

Mendiola said CCC, the governor, IPI, and everybody else should work together to make the casino industry prosper again.

"Because we're hurting right now in the economy very seriously. Everybody is hurting right now," said the commissioner, adding that the best option is to form a cooperative and joint venture.

"So, I'm not suggesting that, it be 50%, or else forget it. Or we just [going to] pull the license from you. It shouldn't be an extreme term like that. It should be, let's put our heads together and our hearts together and let's come up with the best possible option for everybody and let's get this industry moving again," Mendiola said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CHCC

From page 1

CW-1 visa workers have either left the island already or are getting ready to leave.

Although a vital organization, the CHCC, which employs many CW-1 nurses, was not given an exemption.

According to CHCC spokesperson Lee Tenorio, the CHCC is feeling the impact of the "touchback" provision as it anticipates the loss of 28 nurses in the next few months.

"Similar to many other organizations and local enterprises, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is dealing with the effects of the touchback situation. Over the next 6-8 months, we anticipate that approximately 28 nurses will depart for touchback reasons," he said.

However, CHCC has been proactively preparing for the anticipated exodus of nurses by recruiting from the local community and abroad.

"We are actively engaged in ongoing recruitment efforts within the local community and abroad, specifically in the Philippines, Korea, and the United States. We have been successful in hiring a number of nurses through these efforts. Additionally, we maintain continuous communication with graduates from the [Northern Marianas College] nursing program who have successfully passed the NCLEX, exploring job opportunities with them," said Tenorio.

Tenorio added that CHCC is dedicated to upholding a consistent standard of care and service for the CNMI community.

Over the weekend, dozens of foreign workers were seen at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport as part of what's considered the first batch of CW-1 workers to depart in compliance with the "touchback" provision.

Saipan Tribune observed many saying their goodbyes to friends and family members they were forced to leave behind.

Some were teary eyed and reluctant to leave while others were happy to return to their home countries for a much needed "vacation."

Upon speaking to some of them, *Saipan Tribune* learned that many are hopeful that they will return while others remain uncertain.

Although the CNMI Department of Labor does not have a clear picture of the actual impact of the "touchback" provision, the department has already started hosting job fairs in hopes of filling the anticipated gaps in various industries.

Saipan Tribune learned that hundreds of job openings in construction, manpower services, retail, hospitality services, and more are anticipated as a result of the "touchback" rule.

CRUZ

From page 1

Marianas Inc. last Friday, Sept. 22, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Cruz, who was 2019 Miss Northern Marianas Water, succeeds Miss Earth Northern Marianas 2022 Katherine Maria Johnson. There was no pageant this year and her appointment was through the board's votes.

Cruz, 22 years old of Filipino descent, is representing the NMI in the Miss Earth 2023 pageant in Vietnam this December.

In an interview, Cruz said of her appointment, "I would like to start off by saying that I am truly honored to be the newly crowned Miss Northern Marianas Earth 2023. I'm very excited and committed to using this platform to drive a positive change as well as amplifying environmental voices."

She added, "Being appointed as Miss Earth NMI 2023 has given me a great opportunity to showcase the natural beauty, cultural traditions, and commitment to environmental sustainability that the CNMI holds. Let us remember that Miss Earth is not just a crown but a responsibility to advocate for the wellbeing of our mother earth."

She then expressed her gratitude to the Miss Earth organization for making her journey possible.

"I am filled with excitement and determination. I am eager to embark on this incredible journey as your Miss Northern Marianas Earth 2023. With each and every one of your support I believe that we can create a cleaner and healthier future."

Dee Clayton, one of the event's organizers, said that Cruz is "confident, determined, and has a great personality. She is humble and friendly and she will do great."

According to their Facebook page, Miss Northern Marianas Earth takes pride in promoting environmental awareness, conservation and social responsibility, not only to the community but worldwide.

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CNMI SLDS staff participates in Pacific Entities Meeting

PSS

Pacific Entities participants from CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and Hawaii. In the center are Ross Lemke (PTAC TA & Associate director of AEM) and Corey Chatis (State Support Team TA Expert).

HONOLULU, Hawaii—CNMI Statewide Longitudinal Data System staff members, Dr. Annette Pladevega-Sablan, Jeaniffer Cubangbang, Ferdinand Ngirmekur, alongside Acting SPED director Nora Fujihira, State Infrastructure Technology director Jesse Tenorio, and Federal Programs officer Jacqueline Che, proudly joined representatives from Guam, American Samoa, Hawaii Department of Education, and Hawai'i Data eXchange team at the Pacific Entities Meeting held in Honolulu, Hawaii, from Sept. 11 to 14, 2023.

The Pacific Entities Meeting brought together experts and stakeholders in the education data sector with the overarching goal of enhancing the sustainability of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems. The event was marked by its comprehensive objectives and a series of engaging workshops aimed at providing participants with essential knowledge and tools to bolster SLDS sustainability efforts.

Participants gained insights into the foundational aspects of SLDS sustainability and learned how to leverage SLDS tools to support sustainability planning efforts. Teams completed their SLDS sustainability self-assessment and devised strategies to create or enhance their SLDS sustainability plans. The group identified future technical assistance needs essential for supporting sustainability planning and implementation. Teams learned how to establish and implement effective data access policies and processes, ensuring the responsible handling of sensitive information. Participants acquired knowledge on developing a privacy-friendly research agenda, aligning data utilization with ethical considerations. Additionally, participants delved into their roles in data security, exploring risk mitigation strategies, and engaged in workshops that covered various critical topics.

This collaborative effort was marked by fruitful discussions and shared insights, fostering a stronger network among education data professionals in the Pacific region.

Pladevega-Sablan, speaking on behalf of the CNMI SLDS team, expressed their enthusiasm for the event, stating, "The Pacific Entities Meeting has been a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. We are excited to apply the insights gained to further enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of our SLDS initiatives in CNMI."

The event's success highlights the commitment of CNMI SLDS and its partner entities to ensure the continued growth and effectiveness of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, ultimately benefiting education and data-driven decision-making in the Pacific region.

PSS

From left, CNMI group with Corey Chatis (State Support Team TA expert), Jacqueline Che, Annette Pladevega, Nora Fujihira, Jesse Tenorio, Jeaniffer Cubangbang, Ferdinand Ngirmekur, Ross Lemke (PTAC TA & Associate director of AEM), and Elizabeth Brunet (CIID TA).

About CNMI SLDS

The CNMI Statewide Longitudinal Data System is a critical tool in supporting education policy and decision-making in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. CNMI SLDS strives to provide comprehensive, accurate, and timely data to inform and improve education outcomes.

For more information about CNMI SLDS and their participation in the Pacific Entities Meeting, contact Dr. Annette Pladevega-Sablan at slds@cnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

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Attorney for Administratrix Violeta Ablog

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDSIN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

NESTOR RAFANAN ABLOG, Decedent.] Civil Action] No.: 21-0237_] **NOTICE OF HEARING**]

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Violeta Ablog for the decree of final distribution will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the day October 5th, 2023, at 10:00a.m., at Room 220, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 19th day of September, 2023.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Auto Mechanic – JMC-2023-01
Saipan, CNMI

Auto Mechanic,
Joeten Motor Company, Inc., Saipan, CNMI

Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Follow supervisors' instructions to examine vehicles to determine extent of damage or malfunctions. Test drive vehicles, and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Follow checklists to ensure all important parts are examined, including belts, hoses, steering systems, spark plugs, brake and fuel systems, wheel bearings, and other potentially troublesome areas. Plan work procedures, using charts, technical manuals, and experience. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems, and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements. Perform routine and scheduled maintenance services such as oil changes, lubrication, and tune-ups. Disassemble units and inspect parts for wear, using micrometers, calipers, and gauges. Does other duties as assigned from time to time.

Minimum Requirements: Must have 12 months experience. High School Diploma or equivalent. Ability to diagnose and repair vehicles and follow safety instructions and directions. Proficiency with hand tools and other equipment. Record keeping and maintaining inventory. Applicants must pass Auto Parts skilled test (Total Passing Score of 89%) during application process. The skill testing and comprehension exam are required equally of both US and Foreign workers. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays on short notice.

Salary: $ 9.93 - $14.00 per hour.

Workplace: BEACH ROAD SAN JOSE VILLAGE, JOETEN MOTORS BUILDING Saipan, CNMI

Please submit your resume to Joeten Susupe Main Office or Joeten Motor Company, Inc., PO BOX 500680, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to judy_ann@joetenmotors.com and hrd1@joeten.com, website: joetenmotors.com Job Number – **JMC-2023-01**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: NIIZEKI INTERNATIONAL SAIPAN COMPANY, LTD.
THE POSITION: CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 1

JOB DESCRIPTION: REVIEW, FORMULATE, RECOMMEND, AND IMPLEMENT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, SYSTEMS, AND PROCEDURES OF THE COMPANY, INCLUDING INTERNAL CONTROL; PREPARE FINANCIAL REPORTS, MAINTENANCE OF AN ADEQUATE SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING RECORDS; ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF THE COMPANY'S REPORTED FINANCIAL RESULTS, AND ENSURE THAT REPORTED RESULTS COMPLY WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (GAAP) AND FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS; PROVIDE OVERALL PLANNING, DIRECTION, SUPERVISION, COORDINATION, AND CONTROL OF ALL ACCOUNTING WORKS; REVIEW ALL WORKING PAPERS, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORTS; REVIEW AND ANALYZE COSTS AS COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS AND BUDGET FIGURES, IF AVAILABLE; REVIEW AND ANALYZE DETAILED EXPENSES IN RELATION TO THE INCOME STATEMENTS AND PREPARE INTERNAL REPORTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT/MANAGING DIRECTOR; EXAMINE AND EVALUATE FINANCIAL AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND RECOMMEND CONTROLS TO ENSURE SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND DATA INTEGRITY; COORDINATE AND SUPERVISE THE ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT; VERIFY ALL JOURNALS, CHECKS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS AND CHECKS PROPRIETY OF ENTRIES AND ADEQUACY OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND COMPUTATIONS, INCLUDING PAYROLL AND TAXES; FORMULATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND ENSURES THAT EACH DEPARTMENT STRICTLY FOLLOW COMPANY'S BUDGET, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS; ENSURE THAT COMPANY'S ASSETS, LIABILITIES, INCOME, COST AND EXPENSES ARE PROPERLY BOOKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAAP; SUPERVISE AND COORDINATE WITH BOOKKEEPERS TO ENSURE THAT POSTINGS TO THE BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS ARE ACCURATE AND THAT THE SUBSIDIARY LEDGERS ARE UP-TO-DATE AND PERIODICALLY RECONCILE WITH THE GENERAL LEDGER; REVIEW AGING OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLES AND RECEIVABLES; PREPARE THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORTS FOLLOWING GAAP AND STATUTORY BASIS: BALANCE SHEETS, INCOME STATEMENTS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL REPORTS; REVIEW TAX RETURNS PRIOR TO FILING, SUCH AS GROSS RECEIPTS TAX, PAYROLL TAXES, ETC., MAKING SURE THAT THEY ARE COMPUTED CORRECTLY AND PAID ON TIME; PERFORM TREASURER FUNCTIONS SUCH AS MATCHING AND TIMING OF FUND SOURCES WITH DISBURSEMENTS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET (IF AVAILABLE); REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK DISBURSEMENTS; REVIEW AND APPROVE PAYROLL COMPUTATION; AND PERFORM OTHER DUTIES THAT MAYBE ASSIGNED BY HIGHER MANAGEMENT.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: MUST HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ACCOUNTANCY
EXPERIENCE: MUST HAVE AT LEAST SIXTY (60) MONTHS OF RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE AS AN ACCOUNTANT
OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS: MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE WITH ALL ASPECTS OF ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT; PROFICIENT IN USING QUICKBOOKS, PEACHTREE OR OTHER BUSINESS ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE PROGRAMS AND MS WORD AND EXCEL
JOB SITE: JESUS T. ATTAO ST. CORNER FILOORIS AVE., GARAPAN, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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TAKAYUKI NIIZEKI
PRESIDENT
NIIZEKI INTERNATIONAL SAIPAN COMPANY, LTD.

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Saipan daughter graduates with master's in social work

Christina Faisao Deleon Guerrero Tenorio recently graduated from George Fox University with a master's degree in social work.

Tenorio is an alumnus of Marianas High School and the daughter of Suana Faisao and Albert Deleon Guerrero. She grew up in the village of Chalan Lau Lau.

She obtained her Human Services bachelors degree from Southern New Hampshire University where she was part of the Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society and a distinguished scholar with a 4.0 GPA.

Tenorio's husband, Manny Tenorio Jr., said he's proud of his wife's achievements and saw her exemplary academic journey and the road that led her to social work.

"My wife always had a passion for helping people throughout her journey in becoming a psychiatric social worker. She has overcome many obstacles, many restless nights, tears, and struggles along the way, but she managed to push through all the barriers and committed herself to completing her education."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christina Faisao Deleon Guerrero Tenorio and her husband, Manny Tenorio Jr., celebrate the joyous occasion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Christina Faisao Deleon Guerrero Tenorio, right, receives her master's degree in social work diploma from George Fox University.

Christina moved to Oregon in 2009 to live with her husband who promised that he would help her through completing her education.

"At first, she wasn't quite sure what degree she wanted to pursue. All she knew was that she wanted to help better our island. At that time, I recently was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy and moved back to Oregon. I was working for Residential Care Apartment Homes, supporting the elderly population. I encouraged her to work with me. She was somewhat reluctant but then decided to give it a try, not knowing that this experience would lead her into finding her calling in life," said Manny.

Christina spent some time working for the elderly community, dementia care, and residential care as a caregiver and medication aide. Later she transitioned into supporting developmental and intellectual disabilities. The clientele she supported suffered a lot of drug abuse, trauma, and neglect.

From there, she grew interested in supporting people suffering from trauma, addiction, PTSD, abuse, neglect, and mental illnesses.

"I recall her telling me she wanted to become an advocate for young women who suffer from trauma and mental illness and that she wanted to support these women and work with them to get better. She shared that she felt our community in the CNMI needs these types of support that provides counseling and therapy for those who needed it. She also understands how difficult it is for our people to seek therapy and that it's uncommon to talk and share personal life experiences like trauma especially to strangers," said Manny.

After finishing her masters, Christina now wants to break the stigma and open doors for people to seek help and not feel judgment or shame in sharing life's traumas and mental health concerns.

She was recently hired by Oregon State Hospital as a psychiatric social worker and currently provides therapy for patients, helps find proper treatment, and long-term housing support.

Manny said his wife continues to strive to get more experience and knowledge in her field and hopes to gain the tools she needs so when she eventually returns home to the CNMI, she can support the local community.

"I would like to take this time to congratulate my wife Christina on receiving her master's degree. The whole family is so proud of you and look forward to the difference you make for our people. Always remember that you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think, and loved more than you'll ever know and may you always dare to do great things with your life. I am so proud of you and all you have achieved. You make me want to be and do better for us!" he said. ***(PR)***

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

4.6-magnitude temblor near Pagan

At 6:05am on Sept. 27, 2023, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred near the Pagan Region, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no reports of injuries or damages and no Tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.8-magnitude near Inarajan, Guam

At 6:04pm on Sept. 26, 2023, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred 33 kilometers east-southeast of Inarajan Village, Guam. Currently, no Tsunami Warnings or Advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-006-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 08, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $50.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN (IFB-006-23)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 11, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB23-CHCC/PHEPP-MRC-020

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 13, 2023 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS **INVITATION TO BID** FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

ROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-013-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 06, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 01, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS **(IFB-013-23)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 06, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Date: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-005-23
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2023-01-02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning September 27, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport or at the CPA Office located at the Francisco Manglona Borja/ Tinian International Airport. CPA offices are closed every other Monday beginning Monday, October 2, 2023 for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts of the advertisement area and other requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of $100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Tinian Port Manager, Antonio L. Borja through email at alborja@cnmiports.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than October 11, 2023.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-005-23." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, October 31, 2023, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on October 31, 2023, at 3:00p.m. at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

9/25/2023
Date

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHRISTOPHER STEPHEN GANGAN IBAROLA Petitioner,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0104 **SUMMONS**
versus	
ELENITA CAMPOS TORRES Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 14th day of March, 2023.

/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

8th ANNUAL

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FIELD OF HEROES

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To all our Community Heroes, we thank you, we honor you and we remember.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 194

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

US Sen. Robert Menendez should resign

New Jersey's Robert Menendez is entitled to the presumption of innocence (again). But after his latest federal indictment on bribery charges, he should not be entitled to continue to serve in the United States Senate.

Menendez should resign.

The cloud hanging over the Garden State's senior senator will inevitably distract from his ability to put his constituents first. He should step down and focus his energy on mounting a credible defense.

However, Menendez said he is not going anywhere. During a news conference on Monday, he recounted his many accomplishments championing worthy causes and standing up for New Jersey residents, and declared he would be "exonerated."

But any good works are overshadowed by the disturbing picture of corruption alleged in the 39-page indictment. Prosecutors accused Menendez of abusing his power to benefit the government of Egypt and business associates in New Jersey in return for bribes that included hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, gold bars, payments toward a home mortgage, help buying a Mercedes-Benz convertible, and a low-show job for his wife, Nadine, who was also charged along with three associates.

The evidence against Menendez is damning. The indictment details incriminating text messages, a Google search for the price of gold, and efforts by Menendez to meddle in state and federal investigations involving a businessman and associate.

During a search of the couple's home in North Jersey, federal prosecutors found $480,000 in cash stuffed in envelopes and coat pockets. More than $70,000 was found in Nadine Menendez's safe deposit box. Menendez did not take questions during the news conference, but said with a straight face that the cash was for "emergencies," and stemmed from his parents' fear of confiscation of funds from their time in Cuba.

This is the second time Menendez has been indicted. The first case ended in a mistrial in 2017 after he was accused of accepting lavish gifts to pressure government officials on behalf of a Florida doctor. His latest indictment underscores what is right and wrong with our political system.

Contrary to the bogus narrative pushed by so many Republican leaders, including Donald Trump, the U.S. Justice Department is not controlled by President Joe Biden, nor is it part of some so-called deep state. The career prosecutors in the Justice Department investigate cases regardless of political party, as seen by the indictments of Menendez, Hunter Biden, and Trump.

That's how justice should work. Indeed, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland made clear he is independent and not the president's attorney—though Trump perverted that long-standing practice during his term and has vowed to "go after" Joe Biden and his family if reelected. That is just one glaring difference between a Biden and Trump White House.

Sadly, elected officials from both parties often get hooked on power and abuse their position. In fact, more than two dozen members of Congress have been indicted since 1980.

See US on Page 11

Senators Feinstein and McConnell, Young voters are saying members of Congress should retire at 65 years old! Would you introduce such a bill??
NO, WAY! What would that say about our great President, who is 80 years old and is going to whip his opponent who is 77 years old!?
Do they think Presidents should retire at 65 years old??
YES... YES... YES... YES... YES... YES...
Feinstein age 90 McConnell age 81
U.S. CONGRESS
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India-Canada clash should be a wake-up call

By MIHIR SHARMA
Bloomberg Opinion

Mihir Sharma is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi, he is author of "Restart: The Last Chance for the Indian Economy."

To most of the world, the Indian government's response to Canada's charge that it may have sponsored the murder of a Sikh activist in British Columbia must be befuddling. India has strenuously denied the charges, for which Canada has provided no evidence publicly as yet.

But the Indian government has also gone further and blasted Canada for supposedly hosting a "nexus of terrorism," serving as a "safe haven" for extremism and organized crime, and much else. Indian investigators have even released a list of what they call "terror-gangster networks" based in Canada. This is all absurdly detached from Canada's popular image as a polite and welcoming multicultural utopia.

India's rage is misplaced and hardly serves to endear the country to those appalled by the idea that it may have had a Canadian citizen killed. Still, it does reflect widespread sentiment — in India and beyond — that many countries in the West have long paid insufficient attention to the overseas activism of the immigrant communities they host.

That will no longer be possible. Even small, liberal countries such as Canada, Australia, and Sweden must now contend with the consequences of diaspora politics.

Sweden, for example, faced a particularly pernicious dilemma when Turkey blocked its entry into NATO on the grounds that it hosted Kurdish separatists. The Swedish government had to balance Turkey's concerns and its own urgent security needs against its constitutional commitments to free speech and dissent.

Of course, peaceful political expression must be defended. And countries with a reputation for taking in refugees and asylum seekers, such as Canada and Sweden, will naturally host many more dissenters than elsewhere.

The problem is when, as sometimes happens in communities still focused on the disputes they left behind, dissent slides into extremism. How long can governments ignore political radicals merely because they are confining their activities to their old homes, not their new ones?

Canada, in particular, has had a long history of tolerating supporters of militancy abroad. Even after 9/11 built pressure on all Western allies to root out supporters of terrorism, Ottawa resisted calls to clamp down on local financial support for Hezbollah.

Canadian communities also provided much of the financing for Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — who, famously, invented suicide bombing. A lot of that money was raised, according to human-rights activists, by intimidating Canadian citizens who still had relatives in Sri Lanka.

Now tensions have begun to flare domestically as well. Last year, violence between Hindus and Muslims broke out in the post-industrial town of Leicester, while Sikhs and Hindus clashed in the middle of downtown Melbourne in January. Two years earlier, a Hindu man who had been deported from Australia for allegedly attacking Sikhs was given a "hero's welcome" when he returned to India.

It's easy to view such clashes as the natural consequence of India's increasingly radicalized and divided politics. But that's only part of the story. In fact, diaspora communities themselves are often more radical than those they have left behind and have exported their fundamentalism back home.

The revival of Hindu supremacism in India, for example, owes a great deal to the financing and ideological leadership provided by Indian Americans. For their part, Indian investigators have long worried that a rash of murders of Sikhs for supposed blasphemy are related to fundamentalist views being financed from Canada.

As Leicester and Melbourne show, ignoring the political churning within diaspora communities is unwise. Yet politicians have clear political incentives to minimize the danger, especially in countries such as the UK or Canada that pride themselves on their multiculturalism. In 2019, for example, the Canadian government removed a reference to Sikh extremism from an official report on security threats after community complaints.

The risk is that the most deeply conservative, and sometimes extremist, members of a diaspora are then treated as their community's legitimate voices. Law enforcement and political parties will reach out to them — or the religious institutions they often run — for support.

This severely disadvantages more liberal figures within the communities themselves. It creates tensions that threaten to spill out onto the streets of the West. And, as we've seen, it can enrage governments you may hope to befriend.

Western nations must continue to welcome dissenters and persecuted minorities — and should vigorously defend their right to free speech, their property, and their lives. But governments should also try to promote healthier conversations with and within diaspora communities.

The West is still struggling to do both. The concerns India is raising would not justify the actions of which it's accused. Nonetheless, Canada and others should examine those concerns for their own sake, not India's.

Automakers, it won't hurt to share that buyback bounty

Stock buybacks are the perfect target for the United Auto Workers. The freest of free cash flow, they may as well be a billboard saying: "So many dollars, we don't what to do with them!" In the minds of many, they also look like giveaways to the very wealthiest who own many of the stocks being bought, and carry a whiff of financial engineering shenanigans, juicing earnings to the benefit of bosses' bonuses.

All of which offers a reason for the Big Three to consider meeting the UAW halfway on this one.

One of the UAW's demands in its fraught negotiations with Ford Motor Co., General Motors Co. and Stellantis NV is that its members get a share of any stock buybacks, special dividends or increases in ordinary dividends. The figure talked about is $2 per worker for every $1 million of such distributions. Given billions in buybacks over the past decade or so, those $2 tithes could mount up.

By LIAM DENNING
Bloomberg Opinion

Liam Denning is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering energy and commodities. A former investment banker, he was editor of the Wall Street Journal's Heard on the Street column and a reporter for the Financial Times's Lex column.

For investors, however, what's been paid over the past decade isn't the issue. Rather, the question is how much this would cost going forward and how that compares with other demands being made by the union. Looking just at GM and Ford, their buybacks, special dividends and dividend increases over the past four quarters add up to about $6.3 billion. Using the $2 number for just over 100,000 UAW workers at the two companies implies a payment of about $640 million. That is roughly equivalent to a 4-5% increase in hourly pay and benefits, or around 3% of operating profit.(1)

Some investors are reportedly fine with diverting some of Detroit's distributions to its workers, according to Bloomberg News. Altruism? Without wishing to be overly cynical, there may just be a good negotiating stance here for both sides.

Tying some UAW pay to profit sharing is both an established practice and, philosophically, good sense. The automakers have had an exceptionally profitable couple of years in North America, expressing that not only through buybacks and dividend increases but big pay packages for executives. Meanwhile, the inflationary burst behind that cut deeply into their employees' real earnings. It is just a difficult case to make that you must keep a lid on costs to fund the (subsidized) transition to electric vehicles while also significantly raising payouts, especially buybacks, to shareholders. The symbolism of sharing the largesse as a way of making up for this imbalance shouldn't be overlooked and would represent a win for the UAW's leadership.

It could also be good for the automakers. For all their supposed nefariousness, buybacks aren't that different from dividends, but they do have the advantage of being more discretionary than dividends (in theory, both are discretionary but try telling shareholders a dividend isn't sacrosanct). An extra 5% on wages is kind of like a higher dividend — tough to take back. But the equivalent tied to buybacks is more under the control of management. If some sort of tithe can be offered in exchange for other demands, particularly those that raise costs structurally, then that could also be a useful outcome for the automakers.

It is worth pointing out that the benefit of higher buybacks for the automakers isn't exactly clear, anyway. For example, GM's expansion of its buyback program and restoration of dividends in the third quarter of 2022 hasn't resulted in sustained outperformance for the stock. Indeed, its most recent bout of weakness can be fairly attributed to the anticipation and then realization of the UAW strike. Little wonder investors might be amenable to trading some of their buybacks for the union's buy-in. Detroit's stock repurchases come and go, but the UAW is a fact of life.

Ballad of the Feral Cat

LITERARY NOOK

By DUSTIN RADKE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dustin Radke was born in Wahiawa, Hawaii and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He now lives in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

There's a black feral cat that hangs out on my porch
to assess where I stay.
She enfolds at my arm where there once was a sleeve;
she lies under the light that performs like a torch.
Every night when she curls up, I whisper and say

"You don't have to leave"

"Does your heart always beat
at this pace every night?"
says the cat, as I smack my last Juul pod and heave.
"It's been always this fast, every day on repeat."
But I whisper again, bending under the light,
"You don't have to leave."

And she asks why I'm here,
so I try to explain
"I like being alone. There's no reason to grieve.
Solitude is a time that I hold very dear."
And yet still I refrain
"You don't have to leave.

"Will you still be my friend
when we're gone, far apart?"
She responds with "Of course," which I hardly believe
when inside I know this is most likely the end.
But again turn and say with blood shaking my heart,
"You don't have to leave.

"And you know I would stay,
but I think for too long we've enjoyed this reprieve."
So at this, I backup from the unbroken cat,
but she curls up and whispers "You constantly say
that I don't have to leave,
as if even your heart could survive all of that."

"This time, no poetry arrived"

This time, no poetry arrived while trembling
below the deck with your red hair around my head
and, squeezing, trying not to wake you up.

This time, came no comparisons.
Oh Anna Rose, for once came no comparisons
to former flames. This time, for once,
for just a stage came no distress
to crack the door for substitutes.

Oh no.

Because, by no surprise,
we were more important than the morning,
everything more distant than skin
existed only in someone else's imagination.

Because I couldn't afford to miss
a single shake or shift of our position,
I'm by now far too conditioned,
and by now I'm too bemused
to even think of something different
than the world within this room.

Oh no.

My dear, with you, this time, for once no lines
of poetry were thought. No thought of anything
except for maybe onions on your breath.
No thought of tacos eaten earlier
or your horchata saved, and slowly warming
in the fridge, for afterward.

This time, oh no, no thought
of anything except your hair around my mouth.

"Just starring idle"

Just starring idle in your shower, standing
shirtless at your sink, oh god, that factory
of scents I've had the grace to smell
and miss and be attracted to—
so out of place—these past few weeks:
these are enough to get me through
the days to come/the years ahead,
(whichever ends up being true).

Oh god, each bar and bottle promising
a pheromone to ambush me at random
(hopefully) as if a rose were thrown
on every bed I use while moving on:
these are enough to get me through,
these are enough to get me through
the nights to come, not knowing you.

Accessibility for all

By JOSHUA MENESE
NMPASI PROJECTS SPECIALIST

Once upon a time, there lived a kind-hearted woman named Mary. Mary was a cheerful soul who faced life's challenges with a smile on her face. Mary was no stranger to adversity. She had faced a mobility challenge for quite some time and relied on her trusty walker to assist her in navigating the world. Every week, Mary would visit her local laundromat to do her laundry.

Recently, she found herself struggling all the time to unload her laundry due to having to walk a long distance from her car to the laundry site. Mary's struggles did not go unnoticed.

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc., an organization dedicated to advocating for the rights and needs of individuals with disabilities, was a source of hope. Mary had heard of NMPASI's mission and decided to pay them a visit.

Through NMPASI's assistance, NMPASI worked closely with the local authorities and the laundromat owner to find a solution. Together, they came up with a plan to designate accessible parking spaces close to the laundromat's entrance. These spaces would be reserved for individuals with disabilities like Mary, making their visits more comfortable and convenient.

At NMPASI, we provide technical assistance and observe "The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)". This law was signed in 1990 and serves as a landmark piece of legislation that seeks to eliminate discrimination against individuals with disabilities in various aspects of life, including employment, public accommodations, and transportation. One crucial aspect of the ADA is its provision for accessible parking, which aims to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to parking facilities.

The month of September 2023, marks the 30th anniversary of NMPASI. Over the past three decades, NMPASI has been assisting countless individuals and families to overcome barriers that hinder accessibility to all genal aspects of life. Through advocacy and education, NMPASI has tirelessly worked to ensure that people with disabilities in the Northern Mariana Islands can lead lives filled with dignity, equality, and opportunity.

For further information, please contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4, or visit our website at www.nmpasi.org. ***(PR)***

US

From page 10

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court made it nearly impossible to convict public officials of corruption in a decision overturning the conviction of former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell. Despite strong evidence, that ruling will make it difficult to convict Menendez. Though the high legal bar does not make accepting gifts morally right.

The same goes for other public officials. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has made a mockery of influence peddling by accepting lavish gifts from friends, including trips on private jets, luxury vacations, tuition payments for a child he raised, as well as payments and gifts to his wife, Ginni. Justice Samuel Alito likewise took an unreported junket from a billionaire who later had cases before the court.

Such entitlement and shamelessness are what anger voters and undermine trust in government institutions. Credit New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and a few other leading Democrats, including Pennsylvania's Sen. John Fetterman, for calling on Menendez to resign.

More elected officials from both parties should take heed. New Jersey voters deserve better than a twice-indicted senator.

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Congratulations and Good Luck

OHAS

BOULANGERIE & CAFÉ

Greetings From:

Tan Holdings

HEALTH IS WEALTH

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

OHAS Boulangerie & Café

GRAND OPENING

Bread for All, Now in Garapan

9.30.2023 (SAT) I 7AM - 9PM Daily

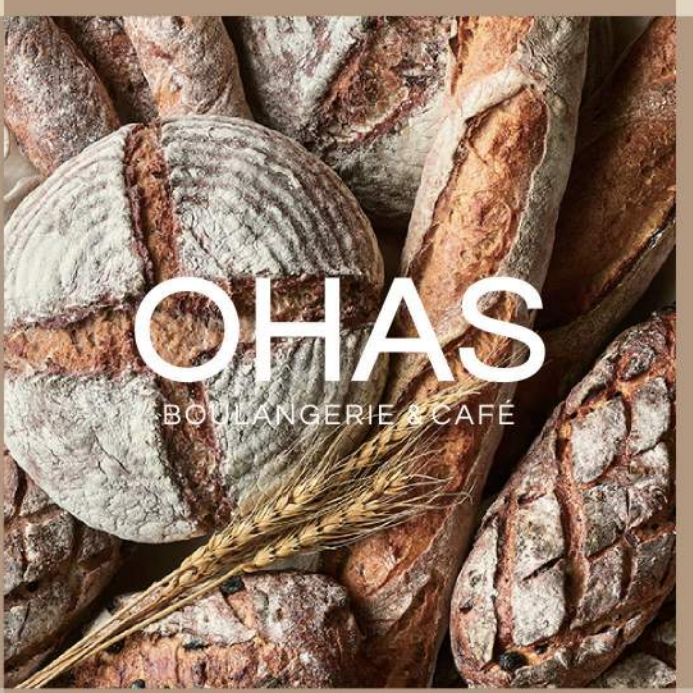
670-233-OHAS (6427)

Signature
Apple Bread

Green Onion
Bagel

Flower Blossom
Cupcake

Fig Danish



Mango Spread
Ham & Chesse Baguette

Mont Blanc

Special Coffees
and Drinks

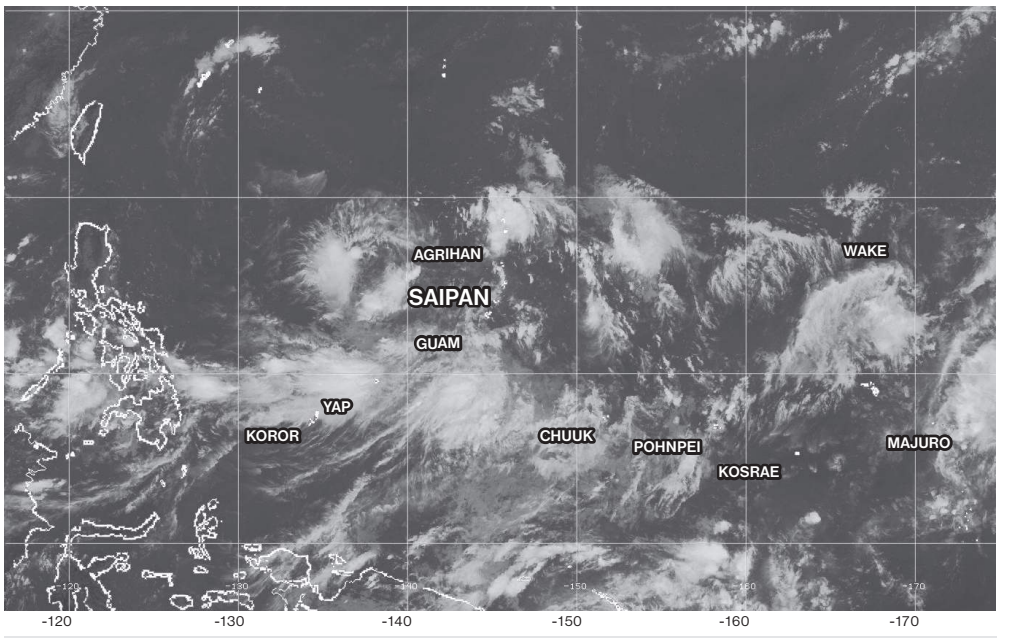
Chocolate
Croissant

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
85° 77°	85° 77°	86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:17 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered to numerous showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. The Ipan buoy reveals an east-northeast swell of 3 to 4 feet while computer wave model guidance suggests a west-southwest swell of 3 to 5 feet, giving total combined seas of 4 to 6 feet with pockets of 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:05 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:36 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	-	6:35 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	-	7:33 AM	7:31 PM
Monday	-	8:32 AM	8:16 PM
Tuesday	-	9:31 AM	9:04 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	55° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 59°
Hong Kong	Sunny	88° / 79°
Honolulu	Showers	87° / 76°
London	Rain	64° / 61°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 68°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	68° / 54°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
New York	Sunny	80° / 65°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	84° / 70°
Paris	Showers	64° / 59°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	77° / 68°
Rome	Showers	75° / 63°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	94° / 65°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	80° / 59°
Seoul	Cloudy	81° / 63°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°
Washington, DC	Sunny	84° / 64°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
1:17 AM	Low Tide	0.62
6:58 AM	High Tide	2.07
1:32 PM	Low Tide	0.11
7:42 PM	High Tide	2.06

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

FROM RIDGE TO REEF

A Series of Articles Written by the
2023 DCRM Summer Interns
Issue No. 5 of 8
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Protehi l Machålek Na Lina'la

BRANDEE HUNTER

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is not just an archipelago of beautiful islands and pristine beaches; it is a home to the endangered plants and wildlife that play an integral role in both the cultural heritage and delicate ecosystem of our islands. Many of these endangered species are not only extremely significant to our land but also to our identity and sustainability. This summer I had the opportunity to be a part of the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) Summer Internship Program as an intern at the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and was able to connect to the endangered species that have been woven into stories, traditions, and ceremonies for generations, embodying the spirit of resilience and harmony with nature that is at the heart of the CNMI.

I was given the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, beginning with monitoring Green Sea and Hawksbill Turtles around Saipan, assisting in outreach to spread awareness, and eventually helping hatchlings to shore. I also assisted in breeding bird surveys, where we calculated the population of birds in several areas, specifically focusing on the endangered Nightingale Reed-Warbler. I then assisted in inshore and offshore fishing surveys, as well as the Saipan International Fishing Tournament, where I collected data on local fish and how they contribute to the health and balance of the ecosystem here in the CNMI. I also helped conduct vegetation surveys, where

I learned the importance of our unique limestone forests and how they play a crucial role in how our endangered species are protected by the rich biodiversity of the habitat, contributing to the conservation of these vulnerable plants and animals.

After gaining knowledge on the importance of endangered wildlife to our natural heritage, I worked on creating a banner that displays all endangered and threatened species here in the CNMI. Through this project, I am helping to educate the community on the conservation of our wildlife in order to protect the unique biodiversity and the role of these species in our local ecosystem.

Overall, protecting our endangered wildlife in the CNMI is not just a matter of conservation; it's an investment in our environment, economy, culture, and well-being. Our particular plant and animal species must be protected and not conflict with our society's cultural heritage, as we continue to face the challenges of modernization and environmental change (Terborgh 1976). By safeguarding our wildlife, we can ensure a sustainable future for its natural resources and our communities.

John Terborgh ,Island Biogeography and Conservation: Strategy and Limitations.Science193,1029-1030(1976).
DOI:10.1126/science.193.4257.1029

TaoTao Tasi

TYRIK BASA

Buenas yan hafa adai! This summer I had the opportunity to intern under the Division of Coastal Resources Management's (DCRM) Marine Monitoring Team (MMT), under the guidance of my mentor, Rodney Camacho, Lead Biologist. The scope of my summer project is to inform the public about the different species that live in our lagoons, and the many ways in which we can keep our reefs safe. There are many negative impacts that people have on the reef including littering, oil and chemical spills, debris from road construction, and overfishing, among others.

A popular fish that locals tend to eat and enjoy is parrot fish, or palaksi. What most people don't know, however, is that parrot fish play a significant role in our coral reef ecosystem. They are a main contributor to cleaning our reefs by eating excess algae, which helps the corals stay bright and healthy.

Throughout the summer I conducted reef and seagrass surveys in our lagoon in order to collect data on the number of species within our marine ecosystem. The collected data is used to determine what we can do to improve resource management strategies. The data is also used as a way to determine whether or not the water quality is sustainable for the species that reside in this ecosystem.

The tools used to complete these surveys are data sheets, a plastic clipboard, a pencil, mask, snorkel, transect lines, quadrats, and diving fins.

The work that we do in the MMT program is important because we can use the data that we've collected to help preserve and protect our reefs for future generations. This data also keeps the public informed about the different species of marine life in our waters. The reef helps protect our island and keeps it beautiful, so we should put in the same efforts to help protect it, too. We should all work together to make the world a better and cleaner place and keep it that way for generations to come.

Marianas touted at Adventure Travel World Summit

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently participated in the Adventure Travel World Summit, the leading global conference for adventure tourism professionals, connecting qualified hosted buyers with adventure travel suppliers from around the world.

ATWS is an annual four-day event that takes place in a different adventure travel destination each year, bringing together over 700 adventure travel professionals from over 50 countries, including tour operators, travel agents, destination marketing organizations, and adventure travel suppliers.

This year's summit was held from Sept. 11 to 14, 2023, in Hokkaido, Japan. The event featured a combination of educational sessions, networking opportunities, and adventure activities.

"The Marianas has a lot to offer adventure travelers, including world-class diving, hiking, kayaking, skydiving, and heritage tours, to name a few," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "ATWS provided a platform for MVA to connect with key players in the adventure travel industry, including tour operators, travel agents, and media. We were able to gain insights into the preferences and expectations of adventure travelers, which will help us better tailor our marketing and product offerings to meet the demands of this growing market segment."

ATWS showcased successful adventure travel destinations and initiatives from around the world and offered a range of educational sessions and workshops led by industry experts. ***(PR)***

MVA

Adventure Travel World Summit in Hokkaido, Japan, on Sept. 11-14, 2023, included the Marianas Visitors Authority and over 700 other adventure travel professionals.

MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority board secretary Christopher Nelson, left, and MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, second left, meet with adventure travel buyers at Adventure Travel World Summit in Hokkaido, Japan, on Sept. 11-14, 2023.

Japan's BS Asahi to premier Saipan TV special on Sept. 30

BS Asahi, operated by Japan's TV Asahi, will premiere a 54-minute TV special about Saipan this Saturday, Sept. 30.

"New Travel Style, Retreat for Adults-Relaxing and Healing Trip to Saipan" is expected to reach nearly 230,000 viewers and targets middle-age active travelers. The show will feature the natural beauty of Saipan, scenic sites, and hospitable residents, as well as hotels, gourmet restaurants, and activities.

The broadcast is supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"We're pleased to collaborate with BS Asahi for this special program about The Marianas, reminding Japanese viewers who love overseas travel that The Marianas is only three hours flight time away and that The Marianas is one of the best travel destinations for healing and peace of mind," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

The show is anticipated to bring about $55,000 PR exposure value to The Marianas.

While in Saipan earlier this month, BS Asahi filmed at Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Surf Club and numerous scenic sites, including Managaha, Bird Island Lookout, Ladder Beach, and Micro Beach. ***(PR)***

MVA

TV talent Asami Kumakiri, left, and Kenichi Ogura appear in "New Travel Style, Retreat for Adults-Relaxing and Healing Trip to Saipan," a TV production of Japan's BS Asahi, that will premiere on Sept. 30, 2023, featuring Mt. Tapochau and other sites and activities on the island. Kumakiri and Ogura were chosen for the program based on their numerous film and photo shoots in Saipan in their younger days.

MVA

TV talent Asami Kumakiri, left, and Kenichi Ogura appear in "New Travel Style, Retreat for Adults-Relaxing and Healing Trip to Saipan," a TV production of Japan's BS Asahi, that will premiere on Sept. 30, 2023, featuring Mt. Tapochau and other sites and activities on the island. Kumakiri and Ogura were chosen for the program based on their numerous film and photo shoots in Saipan in their younger days.

Ship Repair Bootcamp completers celebrated

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The thirteen successful participants of Guam Community College's Ship Repair Boot Camp VII pre-apprenticeship program pose for a group photo.

GUAM—Guam Community College recognized 13 individuals in the latest round of pre-apprenticeship bootcamp completers. GCC's Ship Repair Boot Camp VII lasted 14 weeks between July 5 and Sept. 23, 2023. There was a slight delay in startup due to Typhoon Mawar in May.

Participants took classes in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning I, Shielded Metal Arc Welding I, and Heartsavers, First Aid and CPR. They also completed courses in WorkKeys, Work Ethic, and OSHA 10.

Guam Shipyard recognized the candidates' hard work and commitment for their newly gained skills and knowledge throughout the process and offered the completers jobs.

"We look forward to more bootcamps here at GCC because we definitely need more employees at Guam Shipyard," said Matthews Pothen, president, Guam Shipyard. "You are all going to start Friday morning as employees at GSY. This couldn't be a better transition from school to work.

Thank you to the family members, they couldn't have done it without you all, your support is crucial."

Marilyn C. Alpet, a bootcamp completer shared how grateful she was for the bootcamp. "We have learned so much during the process. We overcame barriers that were thrown our way and still managed to get it done. The BC had us on a rollercoaster ride but it was all worth it," Alpet said.

Dr. Mary A. Y. Okada, GCC president, shared the need to fill jobs in the industry.

"Guam Shipyard sees the demand that is coming," stated Dr. Mary A. Y. Okada, GCC president.

"They see the need to increase the capacity for Guam. It is a chicken or an egg thing, we need to provide the talent here on Guam in order for the ships to come, but we need the ships on Guam to identify that we need talent. We are balancing the two requirements right now. If Guam has the local workforce, they will get more work; they'll get more projects. Economic diversification development here on Guam is only going to increase. That has been the driver for all the boot camps here at GCC."

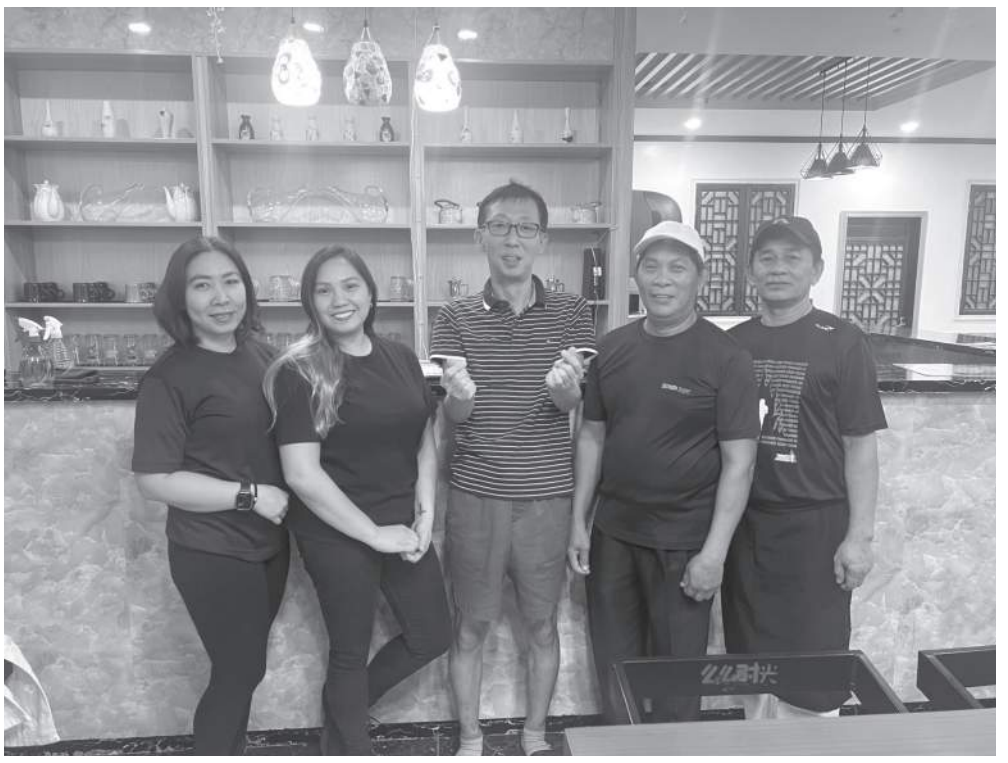
"Take this opportunity to thank your families, the Guam Shipyard team and the amazing team here at GCC for this opportunity," said Frank Arriola, GCC board of trustees chairman. "Never take for granted this chance at a very good life and career. These are the moments that our team works so very hard for… to fulfill our mission as a leader in career and technical workforce development."

The next Ship Repair bootcamp will be announced at a later date. There are several other bootcamps in line for later this year. For more information contact the Continuing Education and Workforce Development office at workforce@guamcc.edu or call 671-735-5640. ***(PR)***

Business

New Shinsen Sushi moves upstream to Middle Road

New Shinsen Sushi Restaurant is now located along Middle Road across Mobil gas station in Garapan.



New Shinsen Sushi Restaurant manager Jung Gon "Kris" Kim, middle, poses with his staff at their new location along Middle Road.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Shinsen Sushi Restaurant may have relocated to Middle Road in Garapan, and added "New" to its name, but the Japanese restaurant continues to be the go-to place for locals pining for the bite-size savory Japanese delights.

Manager Jung Gon "Kris" Kim said they made the move from the heart of Garapan to Middle Road last April 25 after the building where their old haunt was located was sold to a new owner.

"In our old location the building was sold and the new buyer wanted to renovate it to a hotel," he said.

The move and three-month long renovation and waiting time for permits to be approved was well worth it, according to Kim, as they've been enjoying brisk sales since transferring to Middle Road.

"Better than before when it comes to customers as we've been very busy since opening in April. Before we only had a small parking lot, but now we have a lot of parking space. Lunch is very busy specially during weekdays and Friday and Saturday as we get a lot of families."

In a way, the transfer from near hotel street and Paseo de Marianas has been a blessing in disguise for New Shinsen Sushi, according to Kim.

"Garapan was already congested because of the ongoing construction (Garapan Revitalization Project). We picked this place because it's along the main highway—Middle Road—and has ample parking because all three buildings along this area are owned by the same owner so customers can park anywhere," he said.

New Shinsen Sushi can also call their new digs part of restaurant row as Island Café and Savory Bistro are just around the corner, while All-Star Restaurant is across Middle Road and this has translated to heavier dine-in traffic.

The move to Middle Road came with slightly higher menu prices though, as Kim admitted he had no choice due to a rise in the prices of ingredients and shipping cost.

As for bestsellers, spicy salmon and spicy tuna continue to be the favorites as well as the tempura roll and crunchy roll.

New Shinsen Sushi is located along Middle Road across Mobil gas station in Garapan and is open from Monday to Saturday, 11:30am-1:30pm and 5:30pm-9:30pm. It can seat 52 customers at its main dining area, while 30 can be accommodated inside their three private rooms. For more information or for reservations, call (670) 233-1600 or message them on Facebook Messenger.

Nation

McCarthy back to square one as Senate pushes to avert shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—As the Senate marches ahead with a bipartisan approach to prevent a government shutdown, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is back to square one—asking his hard-right Republicans to do what they have said they would never do: approve their own temporary House measure to keep the government open.

The Republican speaker laid out his strategy Wednesday behind closed doors, urging his unruly Republican majority to work together. He set up a test vote for Friday, one day before Saturday's shutdown deadline, on a far-right bill. It would slash federal spending by 8% from many agencies and toughen border security but has been rejected by Democrats and his own right-flank Republicans.

"I want to solve the problem," McCarthy told reporters afterward at the Capitol.

But pressed on how he would pass a partisan Republican spending plan that even his own right flank doesn't want, McCarthy had few answers. He rejected outright the Senate's bipartisan bill, which would fund the government to Nov. 17, adding $6 billion for Ukraine and $6 billion for U.S. disaster relief while talks continue. Instead, he insisted, as he often does, that he would never quit trying.

Congress is at a crossroads days before a disruptive federal shutdown that would halt paychecks for millions of federal workers, leave 2 million active duty military troops and reservists to work without pay, close down many federal offices, and leave Americans who rely on the government in ways large and small in the lurch.

President Joe Biden in California at a meeting of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology said Wednesday he didn't think a federal shutdown was inevitable.

"I don't think anything is inevitable when it comes to politics," he said.

But later at a fundraiser in San Francisco, Biden said of McCarthy: "I think that the speaker is making a choice between his speakership and American interests."

As the Senate pushes ahead in bipartisan fashion, McCarthy is demanding that Biden meet to discuss border security measures. But the speaker has little leverage left with the White House without the power of his House majority behind him. The White House has panned his overtures for talks after McCarthy walked away from the debt deal he and Biden reached earlier this year that is now law.

On the other side of the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer warned of the right-wing extremes that "seem to exult in shutting down government."

The Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell was in rare agreement with the Democratic leader, urging his House colleagues to consider the Senate's stopgap approach, known as a continuing resolution, or CR, and move off the shutdown strategy.

McConnell said that he, too, would like to do something about the "Democrats' reckless spending" and boost border security. But he said, "these important discussions cannot progress" if the functions of government "end up being taken hostage."

When McConnell mentioned a vote against the bill would mean voting against pay for border patrol agents and others, it sparked a response from Biden on social media.

"You know, I agree with Mitch here. Why the House Republicans would want to defund Border Patrol is beyond me," Biden wrote.

With the Senate expected to spend the rest of this week working to pass its bill over the objections of Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and others on the right flank. Like their House colleagues, the conservative senators want to halt aid to Ukraine and push for steeper spending cuts, all action in Congress is crushing toward a last minute deadline.

Trump skipped GOP debate again; this time rivals took him on directly

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP)—Several of Donald Trump's rivals stepped up their attacks against him in Wednesday's second Republican presidential debate, urgently trying to dent the former president's commanding primary lead during an event that often seemed like an undercard without him.

Trump went to Michigan, aiming to capitalize on the autoworkers' strike in a key state that could help decide the general election. His competitors, meanwhile, were asked by Fox Business moderators at the Ronald Reagan library in California to participate in a reality show-style game where they would write who else onstage they would vote "off the island." They refused.

The debate's tone was far removed from a campaign that's been driven by Trump's attacks on his rivals and democratic institutions as well as his grievances about a litany of criminal indictments and civil cases targeting him and his businesses. The moderators did not ask about the indictments or why the people onstage were better qualified than Trump, instead posing questions about issues including education, economic policy and the U.S.-Mexico border.

The candidates often went after Trump on their own, hoping to distinguish themselves at a critical moment with less than four months before the Iowa caucuses launch the presidential nomination process. Trump has continued to dominate the field even as he faces a range of vulnerabilities, including four criminal cases that raise the prospect of decades in prison.

"He should be on this stage tonight," said Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is attempting to establish himself as the leading Trump alternative despite recent struggles to break out from the rest of the pack. "He owes it to you to defend his record where they added $7.8 trillion to the debt. That set the stage for the inflation we have now."

Several others blistered Trump for not showing up, a departure from the first debate, when the field mostly lined up behind former president. DeSantis said just a few minutes in that President Joe Biden was "completely missing in action from leadership. And you know who else is missing in action? Donald Trump is missing in action."

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has built his campaign around criticizing Trump, said the former president "hides behind the walls of his golf clubs and won't show up here to answer questions like all the rest of us are up here to answer."

Asia

N. Korea leader urges greater nuclear weapons production

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for an exponential increase in production of nuclear weapons and for his country to play a larger role in a coalition of nations confronting the United States in a "new Cold War," state media said Thursday.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim made the comments during a two-day session of the country's rubber-stamp parliament which amended the constitution to include his policy of expanding the country's nuclear weapons program.

The Supreme People's Assembly's session on Tuesday and Wednesday came after Kim traveled to Russia's Far East this month to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and visit military and technology sites.

The trip sparked Western concerns about a possible arms alliance in which North Korea would supply Putin with badly needed munitions to fuel his war on Ukraine in exchange for economic aid and advanced Russian technologies to enhance North Korea's nuclear and missile systems.

As North Korea slowly ends its pandemic lockdown, Kim has been actively boosting his partnerships with Moscow and Beijing as he attempts to break out of diplomatic isolation and join a united front against Washington. He has described the world as entering a "new Cold War" and that North Korea should advance its nuclear capabilities in response.

KCNA's reports on Kim's comments came a day after North Korea c onfirmed the release of U.S. Army Pvt. Travis King, who is now being flown back to America, two months after he sprinted across the heavily fortified border into the North.

King's relatively swift expulsion defied speculation that North Korea might drag out his detention to squeeze concessions from the United States, and possibly reflected the North's disinterest in diplomacy with Washington.

KCNA said members of the assembly gave unanimous approval to a new clause in the constitution to "ensure the country's right to existence and development, deter war and protect regional and global peace by rapidly developing nuclear weapons to a higher level."

North Korea's "nuclear force-building policy has been made permanent as the basic law of the state, which no one is allowed to flout with anything," Kim said in a speech at the assembly. He stressed the need to "push ahead with the work for exponentially boosting the production of nuclear weapons and diversifying the nuclear strike means," KCNA said.

Kim pointed to what he described as a growing threat posed by a hostile United States and its expanding military cooperation with South Korea and Japan, accusing them of creating the "Asian version of NATO, the root cause of war and aggression."

"This is just the worst actual threat, not threatening rhetoric or an imaginary entity," he said.

Kim urged his diplomats to "further promote solidarity with the nations standing against the U.S. and the West's strategy for hegemony."

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, said the North Korean constitutional amendment confirms Kim's unwillingness to relinquish his nuclear weapons program and his unwavering commitment to advancing that arsenal. It said in a statement that South Korea will continue to expand its military cooperation with the U.S. and Japan and work closer with other international partners to increase pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as North Korea has test-fired more than 100 missiles since the start of 2022 and the U.S. has expanded its military exercises with its Asian allies, in tit-for-tat responses.

US secures release of soldier who crossed into N. Korea 2 months ago

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. has secured the release of a U.S. soldier who sprinted across a heavily fortified border into North Korea more than two months ago, and he is on his way back to America, officials announced Wednesday. U.S. ally Sweden and rival China helped with the transfer.

Left unanswered were questions of why North Korea—which has tense relations with Washington over the North's nuclear program, support for Russia's war in Ukraine and other issues—had agreed to turn him over and why the soldier had fled in the first place.

North Korea had abruptly announced earlier Wednesday that it would expel Pvt. Travis King—though some had expected the North to drag out his detention in hopes of squeezing concessions from Washington at a time of high tensions between the two countries.

"U.S. officials have secured the return of Private Travis King from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in a statement. "We appreciate the dedication of the interagency team that has worked tirelessly out of concern for Private King's wellbeing."

Officials said they did not know exactly why North Korea decided to expel King, but suspected Pyongyang determined that as a low-ranking serviceman he had no real value in terms of either leverage or information. One official, who was not authorized to comment and requested anonymity, said the North Koreans may have decided that King, 23, was more trouble to keep than to simply release him.

Swedish officials took King to the Chinese border, where he was met by the U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns, the Swedish ambassador to China, and at least one U.S. Defense Department official. Biden administration officials insisted they provided no concessions to North Korea to secure the soldier's release.

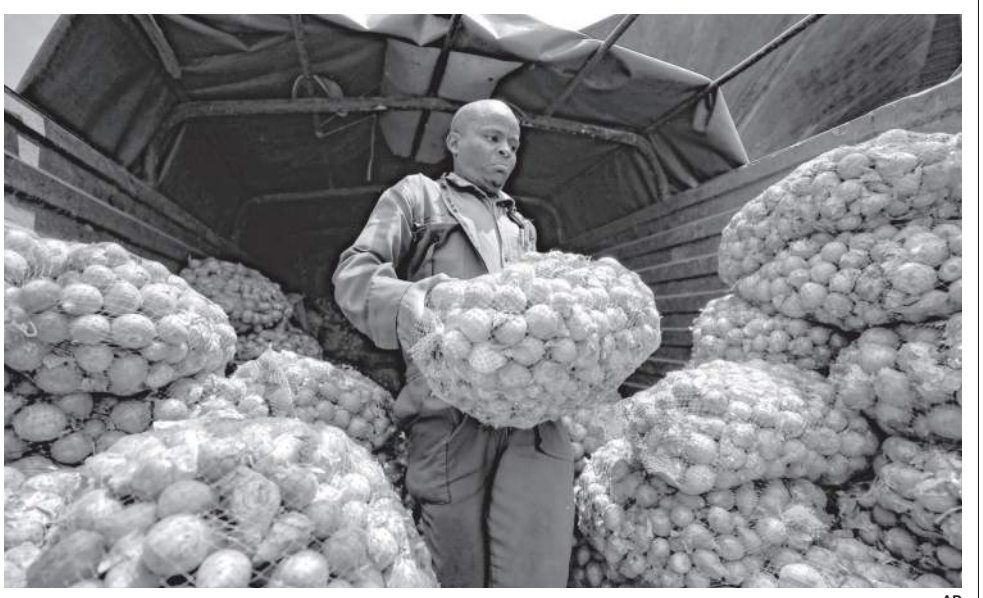
"We thank the government of Sweden for its diplomatic role serving as the protecting power for the United States in the DPRK and the government of the People's Republic of China for its assistance in facilitating the transit of Private King," Sullivan added.

King was flown to a U.S. military base in South Korea before being returned to the U.S.

His expulsion almost certainly does not end his troubles or ensure the sort of celebratory homecoming that has accompanied the releases of other detained Americans. He has been declared AWOL from the Army, which can mean punishment military jail, forfeiture of pay or a dishonorable discharge.

World

Food prices rising as countries limit exports



AP

Timothy Kinyua unloads sacks of onions from Ethiopia at an open market in Nairobi, Kenya Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023.

How do you cook a meal when a staple ingredient is unaffordable?

This question is playing out in households around the world as they face shortages of essential foods like rice, cooking oil and onions. That is because countries have imposed restrictions on the food they export to protect their own supplies from the combined effect of the war in Ukraine, El Nino's threat to food production and increasing damage from climate change.

» Blame climate change, El Nino and Russia's war

For Caroline Kyalo, a 28-year-old who works in a salon in Kenya's capital of Nairobi, it was a question of trying to figure out how to cook for her two children without onions. Restrictions on the export of the vegetable by neighboring Tanzania has led prices to triple.

Kyalo initially tried to use spring onions instead, but those also got too expensive. As did the prices of other necessities, like cooking oil and corn flour.

"I just decided to be cooking once a day," she said.

Despite the East African country's fertile lands and large workforce, the high cost of growing and transporting produce and the worst drought in decades led to a drop in local production. Plus, people preferred red onions from Tanzania because they were cheaper and lasted longer. By 2014, Kenya was getting half of its onions from its neighbor, according to a U.N. Food Agriculture Organization report.

At Nairobi's major food market, Wakulima, the prices for onions from Tanzania were the highest in seven years, seller Timothy Kinyua said.

Some traders have adjusted by getting produce from Ethiopia, and others have switched to selling other vegetables, but Kinyua is sticking to onions.

"It's something we can't cook without," he said.

Tanzania's onion limits this year are part of the "contagion" of food restrictions from countries spooked by supply shortages and increased demand for their produce, said Joseph Glauber, senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Globally, 41 food export restrictions from 19 countries are in effect, ranging from outright bans to taxes, according to the institute.

India banned shipments of some rice earlier this year, resulting in a shortfall of roughly a fifth of global exports. Neighboring Myanmar, the world's fifth-biggest rice supplier, responded by stopping some exports of the grain.

Rising poverty grips Argentina as runaway inflation takes toll

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—With tired faces, residents of a homeless shelter in Argentina's capital pass through the main entrance and line up to receive a hot drink and a slice of cake for an afternoon snack.

Places like the Bepo Ghezzi Social Inclusion Center in the Parque Patricios neighborhood of Buenos Aires have seen demand soar as more people are struggling to make ends meet amid an annual inflation rate above 100%.

The portion of Argentines living in poverty reached 40.1% in the first six months of the year, according to figures released Wednesday by the government's INDEC statistics agency. That is up from 39.2% in the second half of 2022.

"I was renting, and it increased. I couldn't afford it," said Lionel Pais, 37, who arrived at the shelter three weeks ago, just after the government devalued the Argentine peso almost 20%, setting off another surge in prices. "These sudden increases that occurred, the economic situation in the country, don't allow me to cover basic expenses."

For much of the 20th century, Argentina showed a social mobility dynamic that gave rise to a large middle class and made the country stand out in the region. But the good times derailed, and poverty has remained firmly above 25% the last two decades as the South American country stays mired in economic malaise. Prices soared 124.4% during the 12-month period through Aug. 31.

Sebastián Boned, 26, found himself calling the assistance hotline for people experiencing homelessness when his wages as a hotel receptionist no longer allowed him to cover the 80,000 pesos ($218) he paid to live in a boarding house.

"It's a peaceful place," he said of the shelter.

But the clock for Boned, and all of the shelter's other residents, is ticking. These shelters guarantee housing for only three months. During that time, residents are given guidance on finding work and applying for a subsidy to help them with their rent.

Life & Style

Bruce Springsteen postpones all 2023 tour dates until 2024

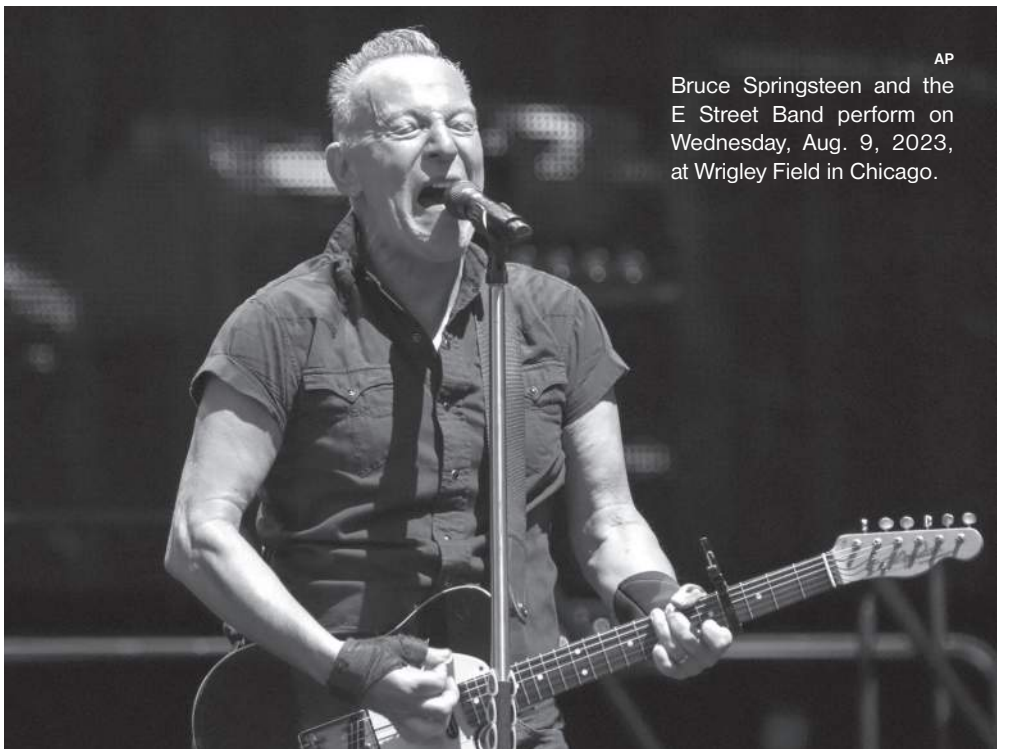
LOS ANGELES (AP)— Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band's 2023 tour will be postponed until 2024, citing doctor's advice.

The Boss, who last week celebrated his 74th birthday, is "steadily recovering" from peptic ulcer disease, a press release read. "Out of an abundance of caution," the remainder of this year's tour has been pushed to next year.

Earlier this month, Springsteen announced that he would be postponing all of his September 2023 dates while he was treated for symptoms related to the disease, which causes ulcers to form in the stomach or small intestine that can cause heartburn, nausea and stomach pain.

Those postponed shows included stops in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Albany and Syracuse in New York, Pittsburgh, Washington, and shows in Connecticut and Ohio.

The newly postponed shows include Canadian dates and a West Coast run of Phoenix, San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.



AP

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band perform on Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2023, at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

Rescheduled concerts will be announced this week and will take place at the original venues.

Peptic ulcer disease can be dangerous, leading to bleeding and emergency situations such as perforation of the ulcer through the stomach. Typical treatment uses common drugs called proton pump inhibitors, such as Prilosec, which can help heal the ulcers within four to six weeks. People who are treated "recover completely from peptic ulcer disease," Dr. Lawrence Kosinski of the American Gastroenterological Association told AP.

"Thanks to all my friends and fans for your good wishes, encouragement, and support," Springsteen said in a short statement. "I'm on the mend and can't wait to see you all next year."

News of Springsteen's illness first emerged in May of this year, when he postponed three dates.

Springsteen's 2023 tour, his first in six years, kicked off on Feb. 1 in Tampa, Florida, before 20,000 fans who mostly stood through the 28-song arena show that included staples like "Born to Run," "Glory Days," "Rosalita," "Promised Land" and "Backstreets."

Kelce notes Swift's appearance at Chiefs game but is mum about any relationship

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Travis Kelce called an appearance by Taylor Swift at the Kansas City Chiefs' victory over the Chicago Bears last weekend pretty bold, but the All-Pro tight end insisted Wednesday that he wants to keep future details about their relationship private.

Kelce discussed the pop superstar's well-publicized appearance in a suite at Arrowhead Stadium on his podcast, "New Heights with Jason and Travis Kelce." The younger of the Kelce brothers said it was "awesome" how everyone treated Swift during her time in his suite, and he was in awe of the way the 12-time Grammy Award-winner connected with his mom, Donna.

"She looked amazing," said Kelce, who had invited Swift to the game after trying—and failing—to give her a friendship bracelet when her Eras Tour made its stop in Kansas City. "Everybody was talking about her and in a great light. And on top of that, you know, the day went perfect for Chiefs fans. Of course, we script it all, ladies and gentlemen."

Kelce had a game-high seven catches for 69 yards and a touchdown in the 41-10 victory over the Bears.

After his touchdown catch, when Kelce was supposed to break outside on the route but ducked inside to catch the perfectly thrown pass from Patrick Mahomes, cameras showed Swift pounding on the glass in celebration.

At one point, Swift even chest-bumped Kameron Saunders, one of her backup dancers and the brother of former Chiefs and current New Orleans Saints defensive tackle Khalen Saunders.

Kelce and Swift were seen leaving the stadium afterward, with the two-time Super Bowl winner joking they "slid off into the getaway car." The convertible wound up heading to Prime Social Rooftop, a place to be seen in the upscale Country Club Plaza neighborhood of Kansas City, which Kelce had rented out for a postgame soiree with the rest of the team.

"I met her. She was really good. Good people," Mahomes said before practice Wednesday, the first in the Chiefs' prep for Sunday night's game at the New York Jets. "Like Travis said, I'm going to let them have their privacy and keep it moving."

Hollywood actors to resume negotiations with studios next week, as protracted writers strike ends

NEW YORK (AP)—With the Hollywood writers strike over, actors will now get a shot at cutting their own deal with studios and streaming services.

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Radio and Television Artists announced Wednesday night that strike negotiations with studios would resume Monday. The guild said several studio executives will attend, much as they did during marathon sessions last week that helped bring the nearly five-month writers strike to an end.

Monday is the same day that network late-night hosts will return to the air.

Bill Maher led the charge back to work by announcing early Wednesday — hours after writers became free to work again—that his HBO show "Real Time with Bill Maher" would be back on the air Friday. By mid-morning, the hosts of NBC's "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" and "Late Night with Seth Meyers," ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," and "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" on CBS had announced they'd also return, all by Monday. "Last Week Tonight" with John Oliver was slated to return to the air Sunday.

Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," which had been using guest hosts when the strike hit, announced Wednesday that it would return Oct. 16 "with an all-star roster of guest hosts for the remainder of 2023." The plans for "Saturday Night Live" were not immediately clear.

The strikes have had a "catastrophic" impact on late-night television viewing, according to the research firm Samba TV. Without Colbert, Fallon and Kimmel proving fresh, topical material, the broadcast networks have seen late-night viewership declines of between 40% and 50%, Ashwin Navin, Samba TV co-founder. "It remains to be seen how late night will rebound to its previous relevance," he said.

Man's daughter refuses to contact grandmother

DEAR ABBY: My 23-year-old daughter, "Chloe," lives with me and refuses to acknowledge her grandmother's emails and letters, which are delivered to our home. It has been four years since my mother has even seen Chloe. My mother is growing increasingly disappointed and is grieved by Chloe's apparent distancing. (We live 20 miles apart.)

Over the past year or so, I have calmly asked Chloe to reply to her grandmother's kind emails and letters. She generally hears me out and then turns and walks away. I have a close and loving relationship with my mother. To me, she's the world's greatest mom and grandmother. I also have a warm and loving relationship with my daughter. There's little that I wouldn't do to ensure her a safe and comfortable home, a good education and, in general, items that aren't unreasonable.

My problem is, I am starting to feel caught in the middle of this widening communication gap. It's embarrassing when I'm at family get-togethers because Chloe stopped attending any family gatherings years ago. Obviously, something has driven my daughter to refuse to acknowledge her grandmother, and for that matter, the rest of our extended and very large family. How do I break this proverbial ice?

DAD IN THE MIDDLE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR DAD: Your daughter is an adult. She, not you, is presumably responsible for her own behavior. I don't know what happened four years ago that caused Chloe to withdraw, not only from her grandmother but also the entire clan, and neither do you (or you would have mentioned it). Step out from the middle, Dad, and let your daughter deal with the fallout from having excommunicated the entire family. You can't fix this. Only Chloe can do that.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago, my wife was diagnosed with a life-threatening health issue. We both rebounded from it and have had a good run. Over the last three years, though, her health has turned south again. She has heart, lung, liver and stomach issues that prevent her from being active. Most of her time now is spent just sleeping or sitting. She cannot walk farther than 20 feet without becoming exhausted, and this is with supplementary oxygen. She has other issues as well.

When people ask me how my wife is doing, I tend to respond, what I consider to be humorously but also pragmatically, "Well, I haven't buried her yet." But when I do, people become offended. Most of them don't realize we deal with this every day, and I have no desire to recount every detail of her problems to satisfy their curiosity. At the same time, I realize most are asking out of genuine concern. Is there a better answer?

WISE GUY IN FLORIDA

DEAR WISE GUY: I think so. Try responding, "She's doing as well as can be expected," or "Her condition hasn't changed; I will tell her you asked after her," and then change the subject.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

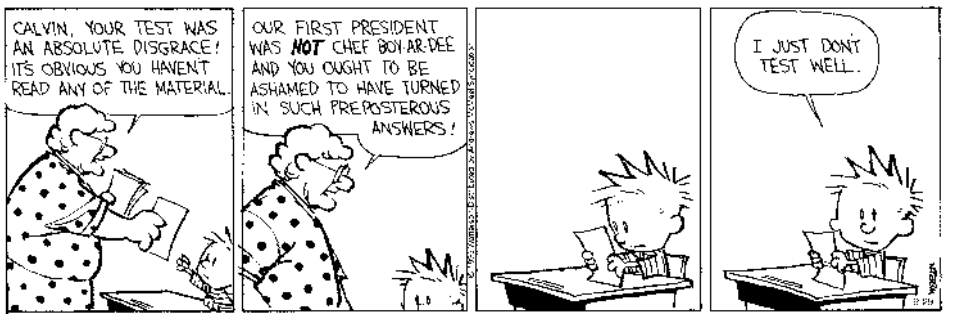
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

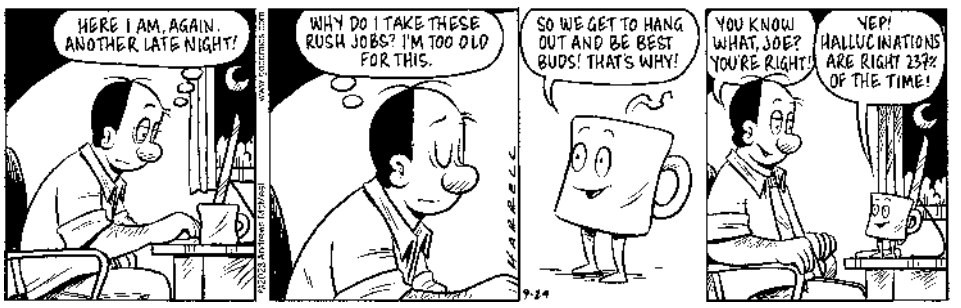

CALVIN, YOUR TEST WAS AN ABSOLUTE DISGRACE! IT'S OBVIOUS YOU HAVEN'T READ ANY OF THE MATERIAL.
OUR FIRST PRESIDENT WAS NOT CHEF BOY-AR-DEE AND YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED TO HAVE TURNED IN SUCH PREPOSTEROUS ANSWERS!
I JUST DON'T TEST WELL.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HERE I AM, AGAIN. ANOTHER LATE NIGHT!
WHY DO I TAKE THESE RUSH JOBS? I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS.
SO WE GET TO HANG OUT AND BE BEST BUDS! THAT'S WHY!
YOU KNOW WHAT, JOE? YOU'RE RIGHT!
YEP! HALLUCINATIONS ARE RIGHT 23% OF THE TIME!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU'RE SURE ABOUT IT?
OF COURSE THE OWNER'S MANUAL SAID IT'S A SELF-CLEANING OVEN.
NOW, ALL WE DO IS WAIT.
AND YOU PUT A SPONGE AND A BUCKET OF SOAPY WATER INSIDE?
OF COURSE. I'M NOT AN IDIOT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — Paulo, Brazil
4 Mexican money
8 Goad
12 TV type
13 Greet
14 Praise
15 Traditional, as values
17 "Lucky Jim" author
18 Apple seller's unit
19 106, to Cato
21 Sit-up targets
22 Harry Potter's owl
26 Emulate Tara Lipinski
29 Bit of butter
30 Altar promise
31 Stew veggies
32 "Alley —"
33 Matured
34 Blunder
35 "The Greatest"
36 Mini-plateaus
37 Dropped down
39 Japanese "yes"
40 Hesitant sounds
41 Wore down
45 Church area
48 Influential faction
50 Profound
51 High hairstyle
52 Ms. Thurman
53 Hot tubs
54 Future atty.'s exam
55 Inlet

DOWN

1 No neatnik
2 Advocacy org.
3 Probability
4 "Friends" role
5 British nobles
6 Part of RSVP
7 British buddy
8 Kilt pattern
9 Ewe's mate
10 French assent
11 Driller's deg.
16 "— new?"
20 Cat doc
23 Perukes
24 Notion
25 Pantheon members
26 Raced
27 Russell of "Waitress"
28 50-and-over org.
29 Luau dish
32 Young person who is unusually wise
33 Vowel group
35 — Lingus
36 "Barbie" star Robbie
38 Nest noises
39 Ibsen's Gabler
42 Smear
43 Gospel singer Franklin
44 Crucial time
45 Billboards
46 Vigor
47 Salty expanse
49 Vinyl records

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	O	M	B		S	L	A	M		D	A	B
A	L	O	E		L	U	C	A		O	V	A
I	A	L	L	R	I	V	L	H		W	I	N
E	Y	E	L	E	T			L	E	N	D	S
			E	D		S	P	O	O	R		
O	A	R	S		S	C	I		N	A	P	S
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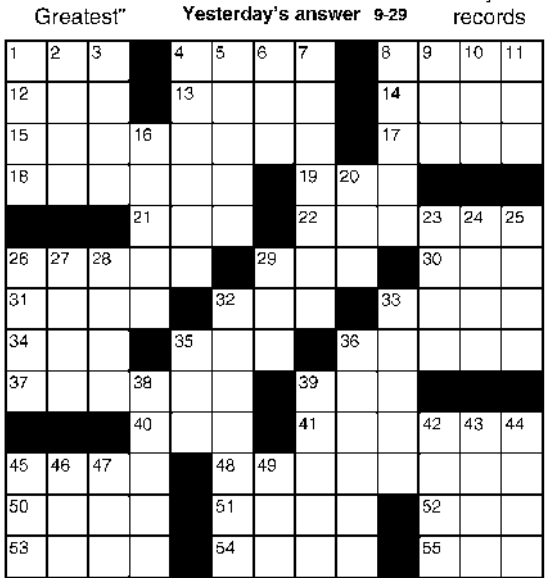
T	A	B	O	O			M	A	U	V	F	S
A	M	A		W	A	T	E	R	F	A	L	L
R	O	C		F	D	I	T		F	I	O	F
T	S	K		L	A	P	S		S	E	N	D

Yesterday's answer 9-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hilary Duff, 36; Ranbir Kapoor, 41; Mira Sorvino, 56; Janeane Garofalo, 59.

Happy Birthday: Size up your situation and devise a plan that utilizes what you know and do best. Changing your financial situation is possible but requires monitoring for safety due to temptation and scams. When in doubt, refer to an expert, but don't give anyone control. Pay attention to health, fitness and proper nutrition, and approach life and love with passion and a positive attitude. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 27, 38, 42, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Hone your skills and reinforce what you want to achieve. A clear mind and set goal will encourage you to put your strengths to work for you and to pursue what makes you feel passionate. Don't clutter your plans with someone else's demands. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Use your imagination to discover how to entice your peers to accept your ideas and plans. Don't hesitate to spotlight the intricacies of every move you want to make, and be sure to enlist individuals you feel confident will carry out your plans as specified. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look at the possibilities and put your energy where it counts. A playful presentation will grab the attention of someone eager to join your team. Offer tidbits of information, but not enough that someone tries to take credit for your ideas. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Refuse to let the hustle and bustle around you occupy your time when there is so much you can accomplish that will position you for greatness. Be aware of the possibilities and take heed of where your intuition leads you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Mingle, communicate, offer services and use charm. Refuse to let the decisions others make throw you off guard or put a dent in your plans. Follow your heart and engage in learning, traveling and putting your plans in motion. Personal gain is favored. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Embrace whatever comes your way. New beginnings will set your mind on fire and give you the courage to use your imagination to find solutions that excite you. Don't limit your vision if discipline and hard work can carry you to victory. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pick up the pace and dazzle onlookers with your enthusiasm and ability to surpass your target. Refuse to let someone's negativity ruin your plans. Stay on the path that offers security and a healthy lifestyle. Romance and updating your image are favored. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A creative adventure will change how you approach life. Assess your lifestyle and goals, and you'll develop a plan that is more to your liking. It's time to live life your way and to deep-six programs that no longer fit your criteria. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen and respond with honesty and facts, or someone will challenge you. Take precautions when dealing with someone who tries to manipulate you emotionally. It's up to you to take charge when necessary. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Choose a path that offers mental stimulation and the ability to change your routine and reach a happy place. It's OK to be different and to do things your way. You control your destiny, so don't allow others to deter you. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sidestep anyone who tries to divert you from the direction you want to go. Give yourself the power to make decisions that ease stress and create the place you feel most comfortable. Walk away from temptation. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You've got the drive and the resourcefulness to do your own thing. Don't let a bad decision, disagreeable associate or overindulgence be your downfall. Think about what concerns you, and surround yourself with people contributing to your success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, flexible and imaginative. You are impulsive and charming.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1				2		8	5
	2				4			
			5				1	
		9	3			1		8
		5	6				3	
3	6		8					4
	7				5	6		
4				7		3		
						8		

Difficulty: ★★★★ 9/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	6	1	4	2	8	7	5	9
2	7	8	1	5	9	4	3	6
4	5	9	6	7	3	8	1	2
1	9	4	3	8	5	6	2	7
8	2	5	7	1	6	9	4	3
7	3	6	2	9	4	5	8	1
6	4	2	8	3	7	1	9	5
9	1	7	5	4	2	3	6	8
5	8	3	9	6	1	2	7	4

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Difficulty: ★★★ 9/28

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SEA FOAM Solution: 9 letters

S	D	U	S	T	E	A	M	E	R	O	H	S	C	C
L	E	S	S	E	V	N	L	L	A	T	S	A	O	C
S	T	I	K	E	L	P	A	G	M	T	F	N	M	E
Y	C	N	A	Y	O	U	B	E	A	A	C	D	P	M
S	S	M	E	T	S	Y	S	O	C	E	R	A	O	U
M	A	F	H	I	S	A	L	H	N	O	R	I	U	P
O	I	I	D	S	I	F	L	T	C	T	R	S	N	S
T	C	S	L	N	D	M	R	T	I	A	E	G	D	E
K	A	H	T	E	I	A	A	C	N	T	E	U	S	L
R	L	T	B	D	T	W	L	B	A	S	E	B	L	B
A	C	R	I	I	N	E	E	R	G	Ⓢ	T	A	O	B
H	I	I	O	B	S	T	N	E	R	R	Ⓤ	C	O	U
S	U	N	P	L	A	N	K	T	O	N	A	Ⓡ	P	B
S	M	O	O	L	B	H	S	A	L	P	S	Y	Ⓕ	O
G	A	S	E	S	E	V	A	W	A	S	H	E	D	N

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Algae, Base, Beach, Blooms, Blue, Boats, Bubbles, Bugs, Buoyancy, Calcium, Coastal, Compounds, Concentration, Currents, Debris, Density, Dissolve, Ecosystems, Fish, Float, Gases, Gray, Green, Habitat, Kelp, Kits, Marine, Mist, Ocean, Organic, Particles, Plankton, Pool, Sail, Salt, Sand, Shark, Shore, Splash, Spume, Steam, Suds, Surf, Thick, Vessel, Washed, Waves, Wind

Yesterday's Answer: Worldwide

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Lillard traded from Blazers to Bucks in 3-team deal

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

AP

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (0) celebrates after a shot against the Orlando Magic during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, March 5, 2023, in Orlando, Fla.

Damian Lillard was once asked to pick a player he'd want as a teammate, and Giannis Antetokounmpo was his answer.

It's about to happen.

Lillard was traded by Portland to play alongside Antetokounmpo in Milwaukee on Wednesday, a deal that ends his 11-year run with the Trail Blazers and a three-month saga surrounding his wish to be moved elsewhere in hopes of winning an NBA title.

The seven-time All-Star—a player so elite that he was selected to the NBA's 75th anniversary team—goes from the Trail Blazers to the Bucks in a three-team deal that sends Jrue Holiday from the Bucks to Portland, Deandre Ayton from Phoenix to Portland and Jusuf Nurkic from the Blazers to the Suns. The trade was finalized Wednesday night after NBA attorneys, as is always the case with trades, reviewed the terms and approved the deal.

"The casuals won't be addressed but the trailblazers fans and city of Portland that I love truly will be … and they will be addressed truthfully. Stay tuned," Lillard wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. "Excited for my next chapter!"

It became known on July 1 that Lillard asked the Trail Blazers for a trade, which he was long speculated to be considering given his desire to play for a contender and Portland not seeming to have much of a chance with its current roster.

He wanted to go to Miami and made that clear. Portland decided not to accommodate that request, and instead, it's the Bucks who now have an incredibly strong 1-2 punch of Lillard and Antetokounmpo heading into the new season.

"Damian Lillard is an elite player in our league and someone we've long been fans of," Bucks general manager Jon Horst said. "These opportunities are rare and hard to measure and execute."

Lillard was asked on Twitter in May 2022 to pick one current player he'd want to help him reach the playoffs. He gave a one-word answer: "Giannis."

Also included in the deal: Nassir Little, Keon Johnson and Grayson Allen are headed to Phoenix, and Toumani Camara goes to Portland. Portland receives a 2029 first-round pick and the right to swap first round picks in 2028 and 2030 from Milwaukee, and trading Ayton means that Devin Booker is now the lone player from the Phoenix team that played Milwaukee in the 2021 NBA Finals still on the Suns' roster.

The trade continues the Bucks' dramatic offseason makeover in response to their surprising first-round playoff loss to Miami.

They followed that by firing coach Mike Budenholzer and replacing him with Adrian Griffin, who spent the last five seasons as a Toronto Raptors assistant. Now they've traded away the two-time All-Star Holiday to acquire Lillard, a seven-time All-NBA selection.

The acquisition of Lillard comes after Antetokounmpo, a two-time MVP, told The New York Times over the summer that he wanted to see how committed the Bucks are toward winning another championship before deciding whether to sign a long-term deal to stay in Milwaukee.

Antetokounmpo's contract runs through the 2024-25 season, with a player option for 2025-26.

Bringing Lillard to Milwaukee certainly suggests the commitment is there. It also keeps the high-scoring guard away from Miami, one of the Bucks' biggest Eastern Conference challengers.

"Yo, NBA, man, y'all need to look into the Bucks for tampering," Heat star Jimmy Butler said in a video posted to Instagram shortly after details of the trade became known. "Y'all do. I'm just gonna put that out there."

When Lillard's request was made public by the Blazers, general manager Joe Cronin said he would do "what's best for the team" while grudgingly seeking to facilitate his wishes. One of the assistants on Griffin's staff in Milwaukee is Terry Stotts, who was Lillard's head coach in Portland from 2012-21.

In the end, the deal with the Bucks is what Cronin and the Blazers deemed best for all involved. It took a massive package to make the trade happen, especially because Lillard is owed a ransom over the next four years. He will make almost $46 million this season and could make as much as $216 million over the next four years if he exercises his option for the 2026-27 season.

It will be a large, and possibly very worthwhile, investment because acquiring Lillard figures to make the Bucks even more of a title contender. He averaged 32.2 points this past season, has averaged at least 24 in each of the last eight seasons and has an offensive ignitability that few players in the NBA possess.

"I want to express my gratitude to Damian for 11 storied years with this franchise and for his loyalty to the Portland community," Cronin said. "From becoming the all-time leading points scorer in franchise history to his dedicated commitment to youth across Oregon and the entire Pacific Northwest, Damian is and will remain a titan and a true trailblazer to this city."

Lillard became just the seventh player in NBA history to score more than 70 points in a game when he finished with 71 against the Houston Rockets on Feb. 26. The other names on that list are Wilt Chamberlain (who did it five times), Kobe Bryant, David Thompson, David Robinson, Elgin Baylor and Donovan Mitchell.

All six of the other players on that list were between 23 and 28 when they had their games of 71 points or more; Lillard was 32, a clear indicator that—even after 11 NBA seasons—he's far from past his prime.

He has been great. The Blazers have not. And evidently, he didn't see that changing anytime soon.

Lillard was beloved in Portland, but the speculation about his future with the team only intensified when the Blazers took point guard Scoot Henderson with the No. 3 overall pick in the June draft rather than package the pick for a proven commodity that could immediately help transform the team into a contender.

Portland won only four playoff series in Lillard's 11 seasons, getting to the Western Conference Finals once. The team went 33-49 this past season, the second consecutive year of finishing well outside the playoff picture.

That's not Lillard's fault. His career average of 25.2 points per game ranks 11th among all players in NBA history who have appeared in at least 500 games. He's had 17 games of at least 50 points in his career—two of them in the playoffs—and is a past rookie of the year, teammate of the year and winner of the NBA's citizenship award.

He's been an Olympic gold medalist, was the unanimous selection as MVP of the seeding games when the "bubble" season resumed at Walt Disney World during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and even won the 3-point contest at All-Star weekend in February.

And he has an absolute flair for drama. His series-winning shot to eliminate Oklahoma City from the 2019 NBA playoffs—a stepback 3-pointer over Paul George from nearly 40 feet as time expired—is one of the iconic postseason moments in not just Portland history but NBA history as well.

"His character, competitiveness, talent and experience complement our group and gives us the best chance to win at the very highest level as we create new memories together," Horst said.

Jaguars' Ridley eager to show everyone, including Falcons, his true skills

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—It admittedly took Calvin Ridley "a couple days" to get over the worst performance of his NFL career.

Two dropped touchdown passes. Two false start penalties. Two days of mulling what went wrong and why in a 37-17 loss to Houston.

"You have to throw it away," Ridley said Wednesday. "Everyone hates dropping a pass. You think I went out there to drop a pass? I come out here and practice hard, catch pretty much everything. You feel me?

"I made a mistake. I can't wait to get back out there to show the fans, whoever, my mom, my family and my teammates that I'm working hard to be a great player."

He left out one more: the Atlanta Falcons.

Ridley will travel 4,300 miles (6,900 kilometers) to face his former team for the first time when the stumbling Jacksonville Jaguars (1-2) "host" the Falcons (2-1) at Wembley Stadium in London on Sunday. It's the first of back-to-back games for Jacksonville across the pond and Ridley's first venture to London.

Ridley initially tried to downplay facing the team that drafted him 26th overall in 2018 and then traded him for two conditional draft picks last November. But he quickly admitted it's far from just another game.

"Trying to make it seem normal," he said, laughing. "I got friends over there, man. You know, it's, still the first team I played for, and I know a couple guys over there. It's still love. No hard feelings."

Ridley insisted that the Falcons ultimately helped him by giving him a fresh start in Jacksonville after nearly two years away from football.

The former Alabama star caught 90 passes for 1,374 yards and nine touchdowns despite playing on a broken left foot in 2020. He had 31 receptions for 281 yards and two scores before sitting out the final two months of the 2021 season to focus on his mental health following a home invasion he detailed in an article for The Players' Tribune. He was suspended for the entire 2022 season for gambling on games while he was away.

The Jaguars gave up a fifth-round draft pick in 2023 and a conditional fourth-rounder in 2024 to get Ridley from Atlanta at the trade deadline last year.

The 28-year-old Ridley, entering the final year of his rookie contract and counting roughly $11 million against the salary cap, had eight catches for 101 yards and a touchdown in the season opener. He's been mostly quiet since.

His teammates, though, expect him to bounce back in a big way.

"If that opportunity ever comes to play against your former team, it's definitely an opportunity that you look forward to," fellow receiver Christian Kirk said. "I know that's a little bit of an incentive, and whether he treats it like just another game or not, I know for us, we want to get that win for him."

Added quarterback Trevor Lawrence: "He's got kind of the spotlight this week."

Ridley plans to save all the hugs, handshakes and high-fives with former teammates and coaches for after the game. Falcons tight end Kyle Pitts remains one of Ridley's closest friends, and third-year Atlanta coach Arthur Smith called trading Ridley to Jacksonville a "curveball."

Acuña becomes first 40-70 player as Braves beat Cubs 6-5 in 10 innings

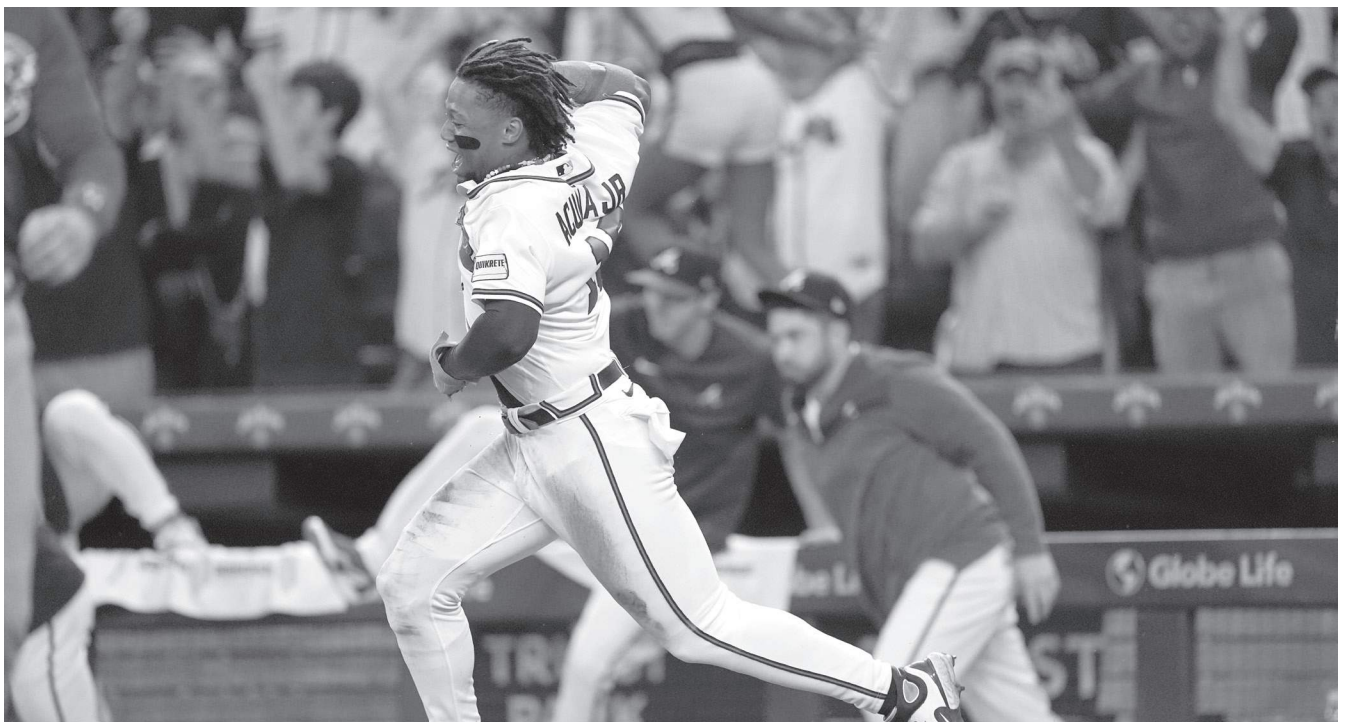
ATLANTA (AP)—Ronald Acuña Jr. established the 40-70 club, Ozzie Albies walked him off with a 10th-inning single and the Atlanta Braves dealt the Chicago Cubs another devastating setback by clinching homefield advantage throughout the NL playoffs with a 6-5 victory Wednesday night.

Acuña delivered a run-scoring single that tied the game at 5, then immediately took off for second to swipe his second base of the night and 70th this season. He has 41 homers, extending a historic season that already saw him become the first 40-50 and 40-60 player.

Marcell Ozuna hit a tying homer in the ninth before Acuña and Albies drove home the tying and winning runs in the 10th off Daniel Palencia (5-3).

Albies also homered for the Braves. Jesse Chavez (1-0) earned the win.

Darius Vines made his second big league start for the injury plagued Braves, who are down two starting pitchers in the final days of the regular season. He went six innings, surrendering four hits and two earned runs.



AP

Atlanta Braves' Ronald Acuna Jr. celebrates after scoring the game-winning run on an Ozzie Albies base hit in the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs , Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, in Atlanta.

ORIOLES 5, NATIONALS 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Adley Rutschman homered and drove in three runs, Grayson Rodriguez pitched into the sixth inning and Baltimore beat Washington to lower its magic number to one in the AL East.

The Orioles would have clinched the division with a victory and a loss by second-place Tampa Bay, but the Rays won 5-0 in Boston. Baltimore will try for its first AL East crown since 2014 on Thursday night.

DODGERS 8, ROCKIES 2

DENVER (AP)—Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer to reach 100 RBIs for the fourth time, and Los Angeles beat Colorado to take another step toward its third straight 100-win season.

The NL West champions will have a bye in the first round of the playoffs as the No. 2 NL seed behind Atlanta.

Rookie Emmet Sheehan (4-1) struck out a career-high 10 and allowed two runs and five hits in six innings with no walks. He had been 0-1 in five starts and two relief appearances since winning at Baltimore on July 17.

Sean Bouchard and Brendan Rodgers homered for Colorado, which has lost nine of 10. The Rockies (57-101) extended their team record for losses.

ASTROS 8, MARINERS 3

SEATTLE (AP)—Mauricio Dubón hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the fourth inning, and Houston boosted its lead over Seattle for the last AL wild card with a contentious victory.

Benches cleared in the sixth with Houston ahead 4-3 after Hector Neris struck out Julio Rodríguez for the inning's final out. Neris pounded his chest, shouted and walked toward Rodriguez as the Seattle star was returning to the dugout. Umpires restored order after a few tense minutes of shouting.

Rodríguez went 0 for 4 with four strikeouts and was 0 for 9 in the series. Mariners batters struck out 16 times and Seattle, held scoreless over the last five innings, went 1 for 13 with runners in scoring position.

Defending champion Houston moved 1 1/2 games in front of Seattle for the third and final wild card and headed to a three-game series at Arizona in control of its fate. The Mariners, who hold the tiebreaker, host AL West leader Texas in a four-game series. The Rangers lead Seattle by 2 1/2 games.

RAYS 5, RED SOX 0

BOSTON (AP)—Tyler Glasnow pitched five scoreless innings in his final start before the postseason, combining with four relievers on a three-hitter and leading Tampa Bay over Boston.

Josh Lowe had three hits, including a home run, and Isaac Paredes also homered for Tampa Bay, which has clinched a wild-card berth.

Glasnow (10-7) allowed two hits, walked one and struck out nine while throwing just 70 pitches to snap a personal two-game losing streak. It was his first scoreless outing since August, and just his second of the season. Andrew Kittredge, Jake Diekman, Chris Devenski and Robert Stephenson each pitched a scoreless inning.

RANGERS 5, ANGELS 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Adolis García had a homer and an RBI double, Dane Dunning yielded three hits over seven dominant innings, and Texas moved to the brink of clinching its first playoff berth since 2016.

Evan Carter hit a two-run homer and Marcus Semien added a solo shot in the ninth inning for the Rangers, who have won seven of eight. They've also set the stage to wrap up both a postseason spot and their first AL West title in seven years when they finish the regular season with four consecutive games in Seattle.

Dunning (12-6) remained unbeaten since Aug. 25 and shook off memories of shaky recent starts by throttling the Angels. The right-hander walked one and struck out seven in his longest appearance in his last eight starts.

BREWERS 3, CARDINALS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Tyrone Taylor hit two run-scoring doubles and NL Central champion Milwaukee came from behind to beat St. Louis.

Taylor's second double in the seventh drove in Brian Anderson with the tiebreaking run after Anderson doubled off Jacob Barnes (0-1).

Joel Payamps (7-5) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win. Devin Williams pitched the ninth for his 36th save in 40 chances.

The Cardinals have 89 losses for the first time since 1997.

PHILLIES 7, PIRATES 6

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper hit a go-ahead solo homer in the seventh inning as one of the few regulars in Philadelphia's lineup in a win over Pittsburgh, a day after the Phillies clinched the NL's top wild-card spot.

Rookie reliever Orion Kerkering struck out two in a scoreless inning of relief and earned the win. Gregory Soto struck out the side in the ninth for this third save.

Connor Joe had four hits for the Pirates.

YANKEES 6, BLUE JAYS 0

TORONTO (AP)—Gerrit Cole pitched a two-hitter to near his second AL ERA title, Aaron Judge homered twice and New York blanked Toronto to ensure they won't finish with a losing record.

Cole (15-4) faced two batters over minimum, allowing a single and double to Brandon Belt. He struck out five and walked none, throwing 72 of 105 pitches for strikes. Cole finished his season with 222 strikeouts in 209 innings.

Toronto was shut out by the Yankees for the second straight night.

Back in the lineup after a day off Tuesday, Judge hit his 36th and 37th home runs. The reigning AL MVP homered to right field off José Berríos (11-12) in the fourth, then hit a second-deck drive to left off Trevor Richards in the seventh.

TWINS 6, ATHLETICS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Pinch-hitter Trevor Larnach broke an eighth-inning tie with an RBI double and Minnesota rallied to send Oakland to its 110th loss of the season.

After Max Kepler opened the eighth with his fourth hit of the game, Larnach sent a 1-1 pitch from Dany Jiménez off the wall in right field that evaded a leaping Esteury Ruiz. Pinch-runner Andrew Stevenson scored from first. Designated hitter Ryan Jeffers, who hit a tying two-run homer in the sixth, followed with a sacrifice fly that scored Larnach and Minnesota won for the sixth time in seven games.

It was the 41st come-from-behind win of the season for the AL Central-champion Twins (85-73).

DIAMONDBACKS 3, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Rookie Brandon Pfaadt pitched shutout ball for the second time in three starts, and Arizona moved closer to an NL wild-card berth by beating Chicago for its eighth win in 10 games.

Corbin Carroll hit a two-run double in a three-run third, giving the rookie 76 RBIs, and Tommy Pham had an RBI single for the Diamondbacks, who were outhit 8-4.

Pfaadt (3-9) scattered five hits, struck out eight and walked none in 5 2/3 innings, and Luis Frias Andrew Saalfrank, Ryan Thompson and Paul Sewald completed the Diamondbacks' 11th shutout this season. Sewald worked around Lenyn Sosa's double in the ninth for his 34th save in 39 chances.

METS 11, MARLINS 2, GAME 1
MARLINS 4, METS 2, GAME 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Jon Berti hit a leadoff homer to complete his cycle for the day and Miami pulled even in the race for the final National League playoff spot, beating New York for a doubleheader split.

Pete Alonso was 4 for 4 with a homer, Francisco Lindor also went deep and drove in four runs, and New York pounded playoff-chasing Miami in the first game of a doubleheader.

Alonso barely missed a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning of the nightcap when his two-out double caromed off the top of the left-field wall. After an intentional walk to Lindor, left-hander Matt Moore (5-1) retired DJ Stewart on a popup.

Miami loaded the bases against Adam Ottavino (1-7) with nobody out in the ninth on two singles and an intentional walk. Xavier Edwards scored the go-ahead run when Brett Baty flubbed a grounder by pinch-hitter Yuli Gurriel.

Andrew Nardi got three outs for his third save.

In the opener, Alonso scored four times for the first time in his career and finished a triple short of the cycle in busting out of a 5-for-45 slump. He also was hit by a pitch in the eighth.

Braxton Garrett (9-7) was tagged early in a costly loss for the Marlins.

GUARDIANS 4, REDS 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Shane Bieber shut down Cincinnati for six innings and Cleveland sent manager Terry Francona off with a victory in his final home game.

Bieber (6-6) limited the Reds to one run and five hits in just his second start since July 15—and maybe his last for Cleveland. Cleveland's Emmanuel Clase worked the ninth for his MLB-best 43rd save.

The Guardians strung together five straight hits in the second inning off Reds starter Andrew Abbott (8-6), who didn't get out of the third inning. Tyler Freeman and rookie Brayan Rocchio had RBI singles in Cleveland's second.

Francona was honored before the game with a touching video tribute chronicling his long tenure in Cleveland, a run that actually began in his boyhood as his dad, Tito, played six seasons as an outfielder with the Indians.

The 64-year-old Francona has been slowed by major health issues in recent years, and said he made the decision to step away after a tough, two-month stretch earlier this season.

PADRES 5, GIANTS 2, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Manny Machado hit a two-run single in the 10th inning, and San Diego kept its slim postseason hopes alive with the first extra-inning win this year.

San Diego must sweep three games at the Chicago White Sox to have any hope to reach the playoffs while hoping the Cubs and Marlins lose four games each and the Reds drop at least two of their final three.

Xander Boegarts hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly off John Brebbia (3-4) and the Padres were boosted by shortstop Marco Luciano's throwing error on Fernando Tatis Jr.'s grounder and catcher Patrick Bailey's throwing error on a pickoff attempt. All three runs off Brebbia were unearned.

TIGERS 4, ROYALS 0, SUSPENDED, 4 INNINGS

DETROIT (AP)—Miguel Cabrera hit his 511th home run to help Detroit take the lead over Kansas City in a game that was suspended by rain.

The game, which was delayed for 80 minutes, will be resumed Thursday afternoon at 1 p.m. before the scheduled series finale.

Detroit starter Tarik Skubal and Kansas City reliever Angel Zerpa were on the mound when play was halted.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Patgon Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament on Oct. 7

Trench Tech Mixed Martial Arts Academy will be hosting a Patgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament on Oct. 7, from 10am to 3pm, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Over 30 children from 5 to 13 years old are participating in the fundraiser that is raising money for their travel expenses to Guam for the Bi-Annual Patgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament held every April and October.

There are seven different weights classes in the fundraising event:

- Peewee 1 (40 lbs-50 lbs)
- Peewee 2 (51 lbs-65 lbs)
- Peewee 3 (66 lbs-90 lbs)
- Peewee 4 (91 lbs-115 lbs)
- Kids 1 (116 lbs-125 lbs)
- Kids 2 (126 lbs-160 lbs)
- Absolute (161 lbs-200 lbs)

Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, founder of Trench Tech, thanked the participants' parents for their support and encouragement, "Ada Gym for the use of the facility, the generous donors who donated monetarily or in-kind, and to Pacific Trading Co. for sponsoring the kids with Gatorade!"

For halftime entertainment, numerous raffle prizes will be up for grabs, along with boxing and kickboxing matches.

Entrance fee is $20 for adults and $10 for children. Contact 670-783-4MMA to purchase tickets.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Tech Mixed Martial Arts Academy is hosting a Pâtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10am to 3pm, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

BIGGEST

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periences that students gain from participating in sports play a pivotal role in shaping them into active and engaged members of our global society. The presence of both seasoned athletes and newcomers at this year's IDUS celebration exemplified the ability of sports to enhance the experience of all participants, evident through the smiles and laughter among those both young and old," said Myers.

She added, "Each year we try to grow the event, both in engagement and diversity of activities. In hopes that it will continue to inspire students and the community to excel both in sports and in their academic endeavors, fostering active lifestyles, ultimately making our community healthier and stronger. Save the Date Friday Sept. 20th 2024!"

Myers then thanked FISU (International University Sports Federation) Oceania, whose essential funding played a pivotal role. "Their unwavering dedication to promoting university sports and fostering a strong sense of community was indispensable in making the NMC IDUS celebration a triumph. This funding allowed us to provide an array of sport and wellness-related prizes, such as water bottles, various sports equipment like paddles and balls, and experiences like yoga classes and paddleboarding," she said.

She also thanked Angela Bernal, event organizer and NMC student, for her tireless efforts and exceptional event management skills.

Myers then thanked the Northern Marianas Sports Association (NMSA), NMC Volleyball Club, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA), Saipan Ultimate, Northern Marianas Athletics (NMA), and NMC for "their collective expertise, resources, and unwavering dedication ensured that this celebration reached its full potential."

CK

From page 24

to just 12 points. By the end of the quarter, the Saints had a 36-26 lead.

Luizi Reyes led the Saints with 17 markers as he traversed JTM's faltering defense, and was assisted by Melvin Manibusan's 10 points and Zack Tudela's 9.

JTM bounced back in the third quarter and was led by small and speedy Kenneth Rodriguez's game-high 21 points, and helped his team with a 2-point lead, 52-50, heading into the fourth quarter. Along with Rodriguez's game-leading points, Elmer Esdrelon scored 15 markers and Jose Broncano 14 points though, there weren't enough to seal the win.

The Saints' Eli Aughenbaugh, Leo Galarse, and Reyes fought to put up the last clutch points in the final minutes for only a 7-point win.

The first makeup game of the night was rescheduled due to rain.

In last Tuesday's makeup games, A Plus Team won against Long Shot, 93-71; Easy Riders won via forfeit by Homesmart; and the third game was rescheduled due to rain again. All of Monday's makeup games were also rescheduled.

In last Sunday's makeup games, The Game-Eats Easy won via a 114-60 blowout against Homesmart; Winners Group beat Loving Hands, 68-59; The Game-Eats Easy won again against Socho, 88-54; and Loving Hands defeated Homesmart, 64-50.

And in last Saturday's makeup games, Checkpoint won over CK Saints, 74-72; JTM trounced Bridge Capital, 86-60; and Lakay slipped past JSN, 75-72.

CK Saints 74 – Luizi Reyes 17, Manibusan 10, Tudela 9, Blas 7, Aldan 6, LJ Reyes 6, Galarse 5, Palacios 4, Thongoran 4, Aughenbaugh 4, Lizama 2.

JTM Saipan 67 – K. Rodriguez 21, Esdrelon 15, Jose Broncano 14, Almario 8, Jonathan Broncano 5, V. Rodriguez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-14, 36-26, 50-52, 74-67.

GECKO

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Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS headmaster said of the event, "It should be a lot of fun. It starts and finishes at Banzai cliff and it's a very pretty, gorgeous course. And a great way to spend an early Saturday morning."

At the same time, elementary school cross country division teams will start their course at 6:30am, while middle school starts at 6:40am, and 6:55am for high school.

This is the one-mile and two-mile course map: https://www.raceentry.com/maps/user/view/61733.

Middle school will run two laps. The course is on the grass and will be marked off by posts and tape. Runners who run on the road instead of the grass on the path to the Last Command Post will be disqualified.

Tribune Sports Scores

EAGLES CAGING STANDINGS

Open A Division		
Easy Riders	5	0
The Game-Eats Easy	5	1
Solid North	5	2
Priority Care	3	3
Winners Group	3	4
Loving Hands	3	4
Socho	2	5
Homesmart	0	7
Open B Division		
Checkpoint	7	0
CK Saints	6	1
JTM Saipan	5	2
Choju	3	3
Vik Team	3	4
Bridge Capital	1	5
670 Rollers	1	6
IT&E	0	5
Masters		
A Plus Team	5	0
Blue Haus	3	1
Lakay	3	1
Legends Team	3	2
JSN	2	1
Long Shot	2	5
Vizion	1	2
Win Pacific-Gualo Rai Warriors	0	7

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$37.25 per week
Get all 5 Pieces - One Low Price!
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$37.25 per week
Each Set Includes:
Sofa Chaise, Lamp, End Table
Console Table, & Medium Rug
Bundle This 5-Piece Set!
ASHLEY FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC.
ASHLEY FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC.
5-PIECE LIVING ROOM SETS
Sale Price!
$37.25 per week
*This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: $9.95 x 52 weeks = $517.40. See store for details.
NO CREDIT NEEDED
Middle Road 234-RENT | Chalan Kanoa 234-DIAL
DIAL RENT TO OWN & RETAIL

Lillard traded from Blazers to Bucks in 3-team deal.

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Sports

Patgon Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament on Oct. 7.

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'Biggest turnout for 4th IDUS event'

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The 4th Annual International Day of University Sport organized by Northern Mariana Islands College Sports last Sept. 20 was a successful one, said IDUS program lead Denise Myers.

Held at the Oleai Sports Complex every Sept. 20, the fourth edition was "extremely successful being our biggest, most energetic, and most engaged event yet! We had over 100 people who signed in and significantly more joined in the festivities," said Myers.

This year's event, according to Myers, had record attendance, diverse participation, positive spirit, generous support, exceptional event management, and collaborative efforts.

"We hope that it not only promoted the importance of health and wellness through sports but also demonstrated how sports can make a community better by fostering unity and inclusivity," said Myers of the event's purpose.

Throughout the event, an array of sporting events showcased the talents of Northern Marianas College students and community members.

The sports showdown ranged from intense games of ultimate frisbee and volleyball, to heart-pounding soccer matches, spikeball showdowns, and captivating athletics competitions—including long jump and a relay race—every moment radiated with the unwavering spirit of the participants.

"The celebration embodied the idea that sports go beyond competition; they are an integral part of a student's holistic development. The health, well-being, and valuable ex-

See BIGGEST on Page 23

DAN SALDE

Participants are seen at the spikeball portion of the 4th Annual International Day of University Sport organized by Northern Mariana Islands College Sports at the Oleai Sports Complex last Sept. 20. Spikeball is a 2v2 game like beach volleyball. It begins when a player outside of the serving circle serves the ball into the net, bouncing off of it. From there, the opposing team has three tries, like in volleyball, to do the same thing and bounce the ball off the net.

DAN SALDE

A group photo of participants of the 4th Annual International Day of University Sport organized by Northern Mariana Islands College Sports at the Oleai Sports Complex last Sept. 20.

CK Saints triumph against JTM in Eagles caging

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

CK Saints triumphed against JTM, 74-67, in their makeup game of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

It was a neck-and-neck game in the first quarter as both teams' rhythm and chemistry were on point. Quick passes and fastbreak plays allowed a give and take of the lead until the very last minute—with JTM's 2-point lead, 16-14.

The Saints' rough-and-tumble game caused JTM to score most of their first quarter points from the free throw line, but the Saints came back in the second quarter with a new game plan. They opened the quarter with a 3-pointer from Justice Aldan, then went with a mix of layups and jumpshots.

A couple more 3-pointers allowed a bigger lead for the Saints and as their defense became more impenetrable, JTM was held

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, CK Saints pose for a group photo during the opening ceremony of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Gecko 5K Fun Run tomorrow

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

In celebration of Saipan International School's 30th anniversary, the public is invited to run in the Gecko 5K Fun Run that coincides with the third meet of the NMA/ PSS Cross Country series this Saturday morning at Banzai Cliff.

Start time is at 6:55am for the community fun run.

Participation medals will be presented to the first 500 finishers and podium finishers will also get medals.

To register, visit https://raceroster.com/events/2023/80285/gecko-5000-23;

This is the 5K course map: https://www.raceentry.com/maps/user/view/61730

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In celebration of Saipan International School's 30th anniversary, the public is invited to run in the Gecko 5K Fun Run that coincides with the third meet of the NMA/ PSS Cross Country series, tomorrow morning, Saturday, Sept. 30, at Banzai Cliff.